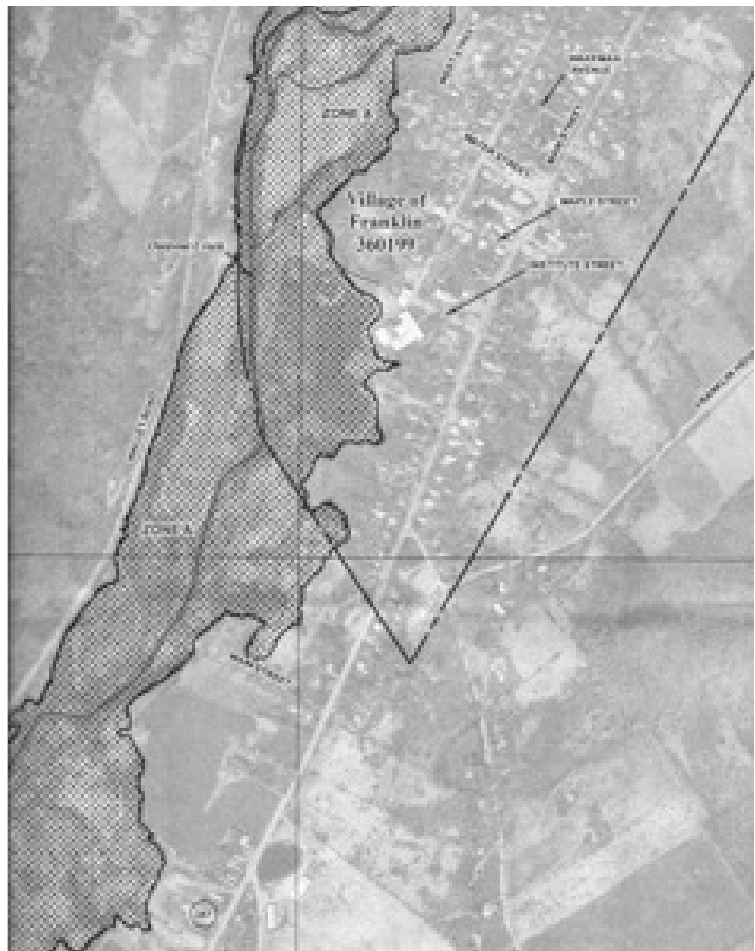


NEW FLOOD MAP



By Brian Brock

The new Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Franklin show the reach of the Special Flood Hazard Zone (a.k.a flood plain) according to the Flood Damage Prevention Law, passed at the April Town Board meeting as Local Law 2012-1. Our one flood plain ex-

tends from the East Sidney Reservoir up the Outlet Creek to just above Chamberlin Hill Road, up Treadwell Creek as far as Jackson Hill Road, and up Handsome Brook as far as the fork of East Branch and West Branch.

This plain is defined as having a one percent
See MAP, con't on Page 4

FRACK BANS 101

By Cat Gareth

The Town of Middlefield is a rural, agricultural community with a population of about 2100. Made up mostly of wooded hills and farm land, Middlefield borders the eastern edge of Otsego Lake and includes a portion of the Village of Cooperstown. According to the Middlefield Historical Society, Middlefield is referred to as the "Land of Steady Habits".

Throughout its 200 year history, Middlefield has been a quiet rural town. Now, however, because of the natural gas industry's designs on the region's shale gas, Middlefield is in the midst of a precedent-setting legal battle to defend its right to stay that way.

In 2006, landmen began approaching large landholders in the town – includ-



Left to right: Sarah White, Cat Gareth, Kelly Brannigan, Roy Kortick, Dottie Hudson
 Photo by Charlie Reiman

ing some Town Board members - seeking to lease hundreds of acres for natural gas production in exchange for as little as \$4.00 - \$5.00 an acre and the promise of future royalties on the sale of gas produced from the shale beneath their land.

Many of the resulting leases were eventually transferred to Gastem USA, a small subsidiary of a Canadian gas exploration firm. By the fall of 2010, Gastem was surveying and conducting seismic testing

See BAN, continued on Page 8



Left to right: Sarah Taggart, Heidi Gregory, Abi Gregory
 Photo by Carole Marner

Summer swimming lessons: \$20.00
Local volunteerism: priceless

SEE PAGE 3

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFISCATION?

A primer for getting the most you can from eminent domain

By Brian Brock

The Constitution Pipeline repeats the Marcy South power line experience in that hundreds of land owners in Delaware County will lose control of parts of their property for inadequate compensation -- even though the project is of little benefit to residents. Unwilling owners will be compelled through eminent domain.

The pipeline would be almost 121 miles long, with the right-of-way cutting through an estimated 1,400 properties. Of those, 1,100 are in New York State, 500 of which are in Delaware County, and 120 are in the Town of Franklin.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County hosted two meetings on the pipelines on the 17th of May. At the meeting in the Franklin Central School, representatives from Williams

did not answer why the Constitution Pipeline could not be routed along the I-88 right of way (ROW) for over half its length, thereby sparing hundreds of local landowners.

A few days afterward, Williams responded to our e-mail from a week before the meeting with three reasons: to avoid developed areas, to avoid wet lands, and the lack of flat land between river and hills

In April, Williams began sending letters to landowners along their preliminary route, requesting permission to trespass for survey work. Separately or together, land, engineering, environmental, and possibly cultural surveys will take a day or two each and leave stakes and a cleared line-of-sight along the route. If this permission is

See GRAB, con't on Page 9

S.O.S. UPDATE

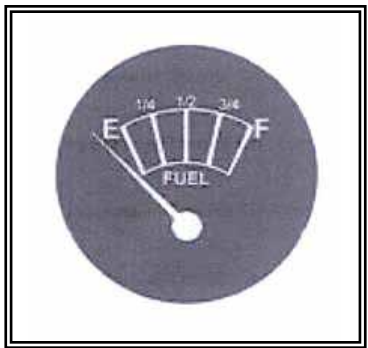
SAVE OUR SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
Planning Ahead to Live With Cuts in School Aid

By Jim Mullen

At the last meeting of the ad hoc Franklin Save Our Schools committee on May 24, chaired by Mayor John Campbell, it was agreed that the mission of the S.O.S. was long term, as cuts in state aid to rural school districts would continue for the foreseeable future. The informal committee, which has met several times since first learning in mid-March of the drastic \$1,500 per student cut to the Franklin Central School, is applying to become a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

FCS superintendent Gordon Daniels has stated many times that a school closing is not imminent, but the Franklin S.O.S. worries that if the state continues to cut aid to rural schools at the current rate, it won't be long before the options for keeping FCS open become few or none. Many believe that the state's real purpose in making greater aid cuts to rural schools than to downstate schools is to force upstate schools to consolidate, falsely believing that "bigger is bet-

See SOS, continued on Page 3



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Your Neighbor's View...

Hello, Neighbors:

The politicians in the state of Pennsylvania and all over the USA are going to spend billions trying to get us, the voters, to choose them. I encourage all of you to let your elected representatives know that they will have to earn our votes by stating their position on issues. This is not about politics but about demanding that they do their jobs.

I am a 6th generation landowner in Silver Lake Township, PA, and I am demanding that my elected representatives take a position on gas drilling.

I am a 51 year old conservative Republican who has a gas lease and 2400 feet of pipeline across my property. I have experienced nothing but disaster from the industry in every aspect of my dealings with them. My water is still clean but the same cannot be said for many of my nearby neighbors.

I have been begging my representatives to come and see for themselves the broken promises and betrayal of trust that has occurred in northeastern PA. I was a Drill-Baby-Drill Conservative when I moved here and a 20 year NRA recruiter - my group was #1

in the world in recruiting, four years in a row. I decided to look into the many problems that I found happening just down the road from me in Dimock, PA. What I found has changed my perspective and life forever and I have dedicated my life to finding the truth about this industry.

I will not vote for any politician who hides in their office and refuses to come to the affected areas in PA and look into the faces of the victims. This issue has become a worldwide story and can no longer be ignored by them. If you don't have the time to come to northeast PA and see the real destruction and loss of quality of life, then I refuse to take the time to vote for any of you.

We the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and USA are demanding that you the elected actually come and see it, drink it and breathe it today. I don't care what your political ideology is, this is about health and safety. My vote for you is a contract that forces you to protect us and not corporations. Recently two PA state reps came to tour our area and they were the first to do so. You are constitutionally ob-

ligated to protect us from this "generational suicide". You all should be embarrassed at your utter disregard for the health and well-being of the citizens you are pandering to for votes. How dare you allow the DEP and our Governor Corbett to let the gas industry run wild with almost no oversight at all?

If you have been brainwashed by the industry lobbyists with their lies and half-truths, good luck when they really cause a disaster and you go down with the ship.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." "In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

We are looking for a hero to stand up for us citizens.

Please come and visit our area and see for yourself. We are ready to give you a tour.

Craig L. Stevens
6th Generation Landowner
Silver Lake Township, PA
570-967-2280



FRANKLIN LOCAL TO HAVE WEBSITE...AT LAST!!

Computer professional Helen McLean, has volunteered to create a website for the NFR's parent organization, Franklin Local Ltd. Ms. McLean is a partner with her husband Bill Gruber in Gibson Hill Ser-

25 years as a technical writer, supporting and educating others in emerging technology at a large university. Now a full-time Franklin resident, she's happy to lend her technical skills to Franklin Local.



Helen McLean

FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETINGS IN 2012

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.



Vestas V112, 3 MW wind turbine

WINDS OF CHANGE

By Brian Brock

Plans for a wind farm in west Franklin are progressing, according to project manager Jeffrey Nemeth. In 2009 and 2010, Horizon Wind Energy erected two 198 foot meteorological towers on properties off Russell Road and Herklotz Road. (Horizon is a wholly owned subsidiary of EDP Renewables Company, headquartered in Spain.) Data from these towers show that winds in Franklin "are sufficient to support the development of a wind farm."

Current plans include 28 towers 260 feet tall, with blades 130 feet long and a total generating capacity of 50.4 megawatts. They would be sited on the higher hill tops and close to the two power lines that run east/west through Franklin. The project is estimated to cost \$100 million.

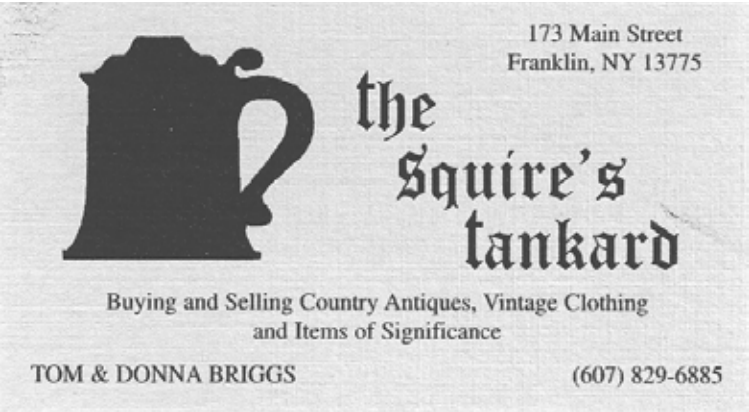
The Franklin Wind Farm is planned to be entirely within the drainage basin of the Susquehanna River and will not extend south into the watershed of the Cannonsville Reservoir which stores water for New York City.

The company has signed leases for a third of the 150 acres required. Unlike the Constitution Pipeline Company, the Horizon Wind Energy will not be granted the power of eminent domain, and therefore all leases must be with willing landowners.

Construction of the Franklin Wind Farm is planned to start no earlier than 2015. This would follow construction of the Constitution Pipeline, which is planned for 2014. Fortunately, the areas of the two projects do not overlap. The wind farm would be sited south of State Route 357 on both sides of County Route 21, along the drainage divide between the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basins. In Franklin, the pipeline would be north of Route 357, along the divide between the Ouleout Creek and the Susquehanna River.

Horizon plans to hold a public informational meeting, yet to be scheduled.

This project will need to go through the New York State Environmental Quality Review process. Back in 2007, the Town of Franklin passed local law 2007-1 to regulate wind energy facilities. However, Franklin has no local law to require bonding against damages to local roads. Instead, like Blanche DuBois, we "have always depended on the kindness of strangers" to reach an agreement. Horizon expects to negotiate such a road use agreement with county and town.



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



The Franklin Recreation Commission planning their summer activities Photo by Carole Marner

VOLUNTEERISM: LIFE BLOOD OF SMALL COMMUNITIES

By Carole Marner

On a rainy Saturday morning in early June, Abi Gregory, age 4, looks up a little apprehensively, as her mother Heidi signs her up for her first year of summer swimming lessons at the Franklin Pool.

There to greet Abi are Joanna Jones (Chair for the past four years of the Franklin Recreation Commission), Sarah Taggart, the swimming instructor, and Tanya Fullington, the pool director. In addition to running the pool program, the Rec Commission organizes four levels of summer baseball: softball, baseball, T-1 and Little League. About eighty children participate in the baseball programs, and a hundred children sign up for swimming lessons. Hundreds of people, adults and children, use the pool weekly. Swimming lessons cost twenty dollars for the season. Everything else is (wonderfully) free.

On the first Monday of every month except December, the half dozen Franklin women who have volunteered to run the Recreational Commission meet in the Village Hall to plan summer activities for the town's children. On a recent June evening, despite a lengthy agenda, the atmosphere is remarkably cheerful. Jokes are traded while one item of business follows another: fundraising; planning and supervising the staffing and maintenance of the facilities; coordinating schedules with other community organizations, primarily with Unadilla, which, for a fee,

has the use of the pool for morning swimming lessons two days a week. This summer, the Commission will also underwrite the insurance for a Speed and Agility Camp organized by J.J. Laing, a Franklin Central School coach, and his wife, Allecia.

A lifetime resident of Franklin, Chairwoman Jones, like many of the others on the commission, took part in these activities as a child. "People tend to join the Rec Commission when children are in school but stop when children graduate," Jones says, "But it is getting harder and harder to recruit younger parents."



Instructor Sarah Taggart signs up Katie Sanford for swimming lessons. Pool in background. Photo by Carole Marner

Most women now, including Jones, have full time jobs. In fall and winter, when the next season's planning starts, each woman spends two to three hours a week on Rec Commission business. During the spring and summer, Jones might find herself working another two to three hours daily.

At the monthly Rec meeting, the women who head sub-committees give their reports. The annual mailing has so far brought

in almost \$4000. All of the calendar advertising spaces have been bought but sales of the calendar have been slipping for the last few years. Pool houses need to be cleaned and painted. Concession stands at the pool and the ball games must be arranged. Chairs - for parents and grandparents who bring the children - need to be replaced. But the summer staff is now complete.

"We have a pool director, six full-time life guards and three part-time," says Jones. "It can take time to line them up. Every year we see who is coming back. And find new peo-

VILLAGE WINS BIG

The Village of Franklin held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, June 19th, to celebrate the groundbreaking of two prominent projects. Over the past year, the Village, with the support of Delaware County Economic Development and Delaware Engineering, has been successful in the submission and awarding of two grants and a loan totaling approximately \$3.8 million. These funds will allow the Village of Franklin to address two significant areas of residents' concern, and create a more functional and attractive community for all: water mains and the commercial district.

A \$2,000,000 grant and \$1,478,000 low-interest loan have been awarded to the Village by the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development. These funds will allow for the replacement of the Village's 150-year-old water system. This project will replace all water lines currently in use by the Village, except for the Main Street section from Otego Street to Institute Street. That section was replaced by the State when they put in the storm drains during the mid-1970s.

Additionally, with the assistance of a \$255,000 New York Main Street Program grant from the New York State Office of Homes and Community Renewal, several buildings within the Village's primary commercial district will receive some long-awaited improvements. The target area for this program includes the buildings along heavily traveled State Highway 357, between Maple Street and Water Street. The funds will allow building owners within the target area to undertake improvements to these mixed-use buildings with a reduced financial burden, thus encouraging private sector investment, with the goal of creating increased and more functional commercial space and safer apartment rentals.

(By Brian Brock. Information courtesy of John Campbell)



A badly plugged water main

SOS, con't from Page 1

ter," even though FCS graduates students at a much higher rate than bigger and better funded schools downstate.

While the Franklin S.O.S. committee, along with other organizations representing rural school districts, is continuing efforts to influence NY State legislators (including a major lawsuit calling the cuts unconstitutional), they are also exploring other ways to prevent cuts in services, by seeking alternative funding, private and public. As part of that effort, Mayor Campbell invited the organizers of The Hancock Community Education Foundation, which last year awarded \$65,000 in scholarships to college-bound students of the Hancock School District, similar in size and demographics to FCS, to explain to Franklin S.O.S. representatives how they did it.

The Hancock group was founded in 2000, started small but now runs a plethora of before and after school programs for almost all age groups. They were most forthcoming about how they organized their group, what worked and what didn't. Test scores in Hancock have increased dramatically across the board, to the benefit of both students and teachers.

The Franklin committee is contacting S.O.S. groups in other school districts with the aim of sharing ideas and building a louder voice in Albany. They will also be reaching out to the FCS alumni for ideas and support.

The next meeting of the the Franklin S.O.S. will be Thursday, June 28, 6pm, at the Franklin Central School. All Franklin S.O.S. meetings are open to the public.

To add your name to the Franklin S.O.S. email list, contact Kathy Campbell: mail2kwc@yahoo.com

See FRC, con't on Page 4

MAP, continued from Page 1 chance each year of being flooded to deeper than one foot, and it marks what is commonly known as a hundred-year flood plain. (The span between the last two hundred-year floods in this plain was 51 years – August 1955 to June 2006.) This 2012 flood plain covers more land than the older version and allows more landowners to get subsidized flood insurance. At its widest, above the reservoir, our flood plain is over 3,000 feet across.

These maps mark the boundaries in greater detail than the old maps, which date from 1987, 25 years ago. Because of this detail, ten maps are needed to cover the flood plain in Franklin at a scale of 1"=500' or 1"=1000'. The more detailed maps are for the area around the Village.

These federal maps (Exhibit 2) are available for viewing at the Town Hall, as is the accompanying report: *Flood Insurance Study, Delaware County, New York, All Jurisdictions, Volumes 1 to 3*. The report runs only 76 pages, but the accompanying flood profiles (Exhibit 1) run 163 pages. None of these profiles are for flood-

ing in Franklin.

Construction within the flood plain must follow specific codes, and the plans require a Flood Plain Development Permit. Our code enforcement officer has been appointed the Local Flood Plain Administrator. Our new law adds a fee of \$5 for this review, whereas Walton set their fee at \$150.

The ordinance was written by the Delaware County Planning Department. Franklin passed the minimal version of the law (as recommended by Planning), unlike towns such as Hancock. Therefore our code enforcement officer will not be required to inventory all existing buildings in the flood plain. At the April meeting, Duncan Martin of the Delaware County Planning Department answered questions.

Unless the minimum was adopted, Franklin would not have been eligible for FEMA reimbursement and landowners would not have been eligible for the National Flood Insurance program. All of the flood plain in Franklin is zone A. New maps and fee went into effect June 19th.

PARK NEWS

By Kim Hyzer, with Jane Hebbard

How beautiful the spring flowers were! If you didn't visit early, you missed the *Valerie Finnis* light blue grape hyacinths and miniature daffodils as well as all the others.

The fountain looks great! The kiosk is done! Dillon passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review. At the time of this writing, his Eagle Award Ceremony was being planned.

Additional trees were planted this spring – a Golden Thread False Cypress and two Peegee Hydrangea trees. More flowers were planted in the monument area – peonies and lupines by the wood fence and red, white and blue annuals around the flag pole. This fall, irises will be added along the fence. In the fountain quadrant, the Garden Club planted dianthus, morning glories, white impatiens, plus a big block of blue salvia and bright rudbeckias to accent the Purple Fountain Beech Tree. We will have well designed summer color in the raised bed behind Robert's stonework.

One of the Club mem-

bers also designed the teak box summer plantings with ideas from planters she saw last year, using butterfly bushes in the centers. The hummers, butterflies and bees will enjoy it as much as we will. It looks like blossoms and foliage will be spilling over all sides very soon.

The Summer Snowflake viburnum is performing according to its name and is showered with white blossoms among hostas and purple heucheras. Our Hydrangeas have new growth and are already budded, including the tree in the other quadrant. In the corner, there are some Camassia, blue late spring deer and rodent resistant bulbs that are blooming now.

The Garden Club will also be planting in the fall. We thank them for all they have done – planning, shopping, planting, weeding, watering, etc. - to help make the park so nice!

One evening in May my husband and I were driving up Main Street and came across a knot of cars on both sides of the street in front of the park. A pretty young lady in a bright blue gown along with three young men in white tuxedos were having pictures taken in front of the foun-

GARDEN VILLANELLE*

By Abigail Dennis

In my garden green, the lupine reigns as queen.
Hibiscus is the duke, and he shines brighter than a breeze.
The king is the phlox, who stands tall and lean.

The princesses are the lilies, regal and yellow, delicate and green.
Zinnia is a beautiful lass.
In my garden green, the lupine reigns as queen.

The thistles guard the royal family and are always tough and mean
Blue violets are timid and shy, so they hide in the grass.
The king is phlox, who stands tall and lean.

Joe-pye weed is the prince, looking up at the sky, wanting to be seen.
White boneset, the duchess, wears a crown of white that sparkles like glass.
In my garden green, the lupine reigns as queen.

The roses are lovely ladies with thorns that are very keen.
The poppies bloom a brilliant red and start to grow enmass.
The king is the phlox, who stands tall and lean.

The Chinese lanterns are the lights of the garden, with pods that look like beans
The yarrow puts out its flowers one last time before summer is past.
In my garden green, the lupine reigns as queen.
The king is the phlox, who stands tall and lean.

**The villanelle is a nineteen-line poem with two repeating rhymes and two refrains. The poem is made of five tercets followed by a quatrain. The first and third lines of the opening tercet are repeated alternately in the last lines of the succeeding stanzas; in the last stanza, the poem's two ending lines are the refrain.*

Abigail Dennis, from *Treadwell*, is a 13-year-old, home-schooled, 7th grader at the Bright Hill Winter Literary Workshops for Kids 2012, directed by Bertha Rogers.

For information on the summer workshops contact wordthur@stny.rr.com or call 607-829-5055.

Heathen Hill
Yoga

Weekly community class • Sunday 10:30am-11:45am

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

tain! I don't know if the occasion was a prom or a wedding but those pictures ought to be great!

We should all spend a few minutes whenever we are in the village, enjoying all the little treasures that make up the park. You have to see it up close to appreciate this wonderful addition to our village. As always, everyone is welcome to visit the park and stay for awhile to rest, relax or eat a picnic meal

If you're interested in using the park for a display, outdoor concert, or special event, please call Kim at 607-829-8820.

FRC, con't from Page 3

How much rental to charge for the popular Sunday night pool parties? Decision: \$75.00 for two and a half hours. A discussion follows as to whether the entire area, including the parking lot, should be smoke-free. Yes, they decide. This year, as if there were not enough on their plate, it is suggested that the Commission initiate an annual scholarship award to a senior who has worked as life guard. Decision: again, yes.

“Although the village and town help with funding, we need to hold fundraisers,” says Jones. “Like the Sock Hop we held in the firehouse. That was really successful. To keep things going we work hand-in-hand with the school and we reach out to community organizations like Rotary. And we try to get local businesses involved in co-sponsoring. Franklin's Hometown Pizza restaurant is doing that this year.”

What inspires Jones and her RecCom colleagues to do all of this?

“If you don't have community activity, you miss out. The kids, of course, miss out a lot, but you miss out too.”

Jones is stating a simple fact. Indeed, everyone would miss out. Volunteerism is the life blood of small communities. In cities, essential services - the equivalent of the Franklin Fire Department and EMS, Recreation Committee and Free Library - are provided by paid full-time staff. Amenities like street plantings are cared for by city employees, while here in Franklin, it is the Garden Club who looks after the public landscaping. There are, here as elsewhere, the Rotary and the School Board and the Election Board. This being a small town, many people volunteer their time to more than one organization. Just try to imagine Franklin without its volunteers.

PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz

Hello, friends and readers:

There is always so much to talk about, but today I will discuss Bloat.

Many types of animals will bloat but in dogs, it is a serious life threatening emergency: the stomach fills with gas and gets bigger and bigger until eventually, it can twist (a *volvulus*). When this happens, the body starts going into shock because the oxygen supply to the vessels of the stomach and sometimes the spleen and other organs gets cut off. This causes them to go into shock and die off. The dog can die from this very soon, if left untreated. I mean very soon. In Vet school, we were told never let the sun set on a bloat, meaning the pet will most probably die if not treated.

So, let me tell you more.

First, the more susceptible breeds are the Great Dane, Greyhound, St Bernard, Weimeraner, Poodle and Setter, although any dog can bloat. Other predisposing factors are having a large, deep chest, being thin or older, being fed just once a day, or being an anxious type. Male dogs are most often affected, as well as fast eaters.

What are the signs of Bloat? Most often the dog has just eaten, been drinking or got into something. He or she will be retching, with little or nothing coming up. They are trying to vomit, but can't. Most of the time, you can see an obvious distention behind the last rib. This is the gas-filled stomach. It will actually ping like a drum when lightly tapped. Often, they will drool and seem nauseated. When you see these signs, it is time to rush to the vet as soon as possible.

The Vet will take a history, check vital signs and palpate the stomach. If they think it is bloat, they may start an IV, take an x ray, or try to pass a stomach tube. Let me tell you why. One of the first things that needs to be done is to decompress the stomach. This is done because the swollen stomach is putting pressure on major vessels, thus cutting off the circulation, which sends the dog into shock. The stomach must be untwisted and the



gas released. This is often done with a stomach tube through the mouth into the stomach, but if the stomach is tightly twisted, the tube cannot be passed and surgery is needed. Next, an IV is started, to combat the shock that is setting in. Sometimes the dog's heart rate is very high because of the intense pain, which can cause heart failure. With the IV fluids comes electrolytes. Pain meds and antibiotics are given as well. Another issue to be address is an abnormal heart rhythm. Bloat can upset the normal rhythm, which can also cause heart failure.

Once these are done, the next step is surgery because even though the dog is somewhat stable, it still has a twisted stomach which will continue to bloat unless surgery is performed to untwist it and remove the gas and sometimes a ton of garbage (if the dog got into the garbage). Sometimes the spleen has been twisted as well and is diseased due to the lack of circulation, so needs to be removed. Sometimes portions of the stomach also need to be excised. Surgery is not always needed, but without surgery there is a 76% chance of re-bloating and 24% chance of death from the next bloat. So, most dogs will need surgery, but a procedure is usually done at the end to tack the stomach to the abdominal wall or rib, to keep it from twisting again, which is very good. Unfortunately, post op complications are high, mostly due to the heart issues and infection.

Here are ways to avoid having your dog bloat. First, feed several small meals a day, and add canned food to the diet. Hope you have a happy, easy going dog, because this will help too. Most important, if you have a dog, any dog, learn what the signs of bloat are, and know where you can go in an emergency if it happens. This is one emergency that cannot wait!

Please keep your letters coming! I enjoy hearing from you. Have a great summer and watch out for ticks: they carry Lyme disease.

- Dr. Joan Puritz

GAMES WITH GRASS: Patterned Meadows

By Don Statham

Last year I began turning large areas of what had been mowed lawn into architectural patterned meadow. Let me explain.

My new approach to mowing is to stop mowing as much as possible. To this end I planted a small orchard of six plum trees last spring and mowed a path between the short avenue to a bench and crabapple tree that became a natural focal point. In the two columns either side of the central path, a profusion of meadow plants began to show up including, daisies, but-



3000 scilla and muscari planted in raised grass squares

ter & eggs, vetch, clover, buttercups and other flowering perennials. Last autumn, I mowed the high grass right down and planted 3000 scilla-wood squil and muscari-grape hyacinth bulbs. This spring the display of blue flowers has been wonderful and lasted over 5 weeks. The area will be unmowed all spring and summer and this fall I will mow it down again so that next spring I will be able to see bulb display in the low grass.

This spring I have turned over another

FROM OUR MAILBOX:

To the Editor:

We picked up copies of The New Franklin Register [Winter, 2011] a couple of days ago. The paper looks great, and we've enjoyed reading it from front to back.

Ken Stalter's picture was a perfect fit with the article on the upcoming special day in Franklin.... just talked with Ken and we had a good laugh about his finding the picture in the paper!

Thanks,
Kay Cronk

PET TALK READERS: If you have questions for Dr. Puritz, please email her care of us at thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com. She will answer you in a future column.



Dr. Puritz's dog, Basil



large area of the mowed lawn and made paths that make a 6ft wide grid around 6X 13.5'feet square unmown squares. I have named this new area Versailles for its formal appearance and grandeur! Already the juxtaposition of high and low grass has added an interesting texture to the garden and of course the secondary bonus is that my mowing time is cut tremendously, no pun intended, as is my gas bill. I will post photos again once the wildflowers begin to bloom.



Versailles- 6ft paths x 13.5 squares of meadow flowering plants.

Don Statham of Don Statham Designs writes a regular garden blog, *ROOTING FOR IDEAS*, to talk about gardens and garden design, and to offer gardening tips.

Visit him at <http://donstathamblog.com>

To the Editor:

A year ago, citizens in The Town of Butternuts started the process of electing a town board that would listen to the 83% of us that did NOT want the water, soil and air-contaminating, infrastructure-destroying, compulsory-integrating, water and diesel intensive industry of hydrofracking.

Residents with a love for the land we have farmed and been good stewards of voted in a moratorium on 4/30/12. We are protecting not only our town but the states to which New York State will ship our contaminating flow-back

waste, if Gov. Cuomo allows the oil & gas industry into our beautiful Empire State.

The grass roots group Middlefield Neighbors has sent out an appeal for tax-deductible contributions.

Thank you again for your time and informative newspaper. I wish I could go into depth about how the information has been priceless for responding to elected officials and submitting information to other less informed news outlets.

Tammy Reiss
Town of Butternuts, NY

[Editor's note: To contribute to the Middlefield appeal, see bottom of Page 8.]

Editor's note:

Last month, I came home very late from work to find my 12 year old poodle Gaia suffering the very symptoms that Dr. Puritz describes so precisely. A call to my own vet got an answering machine. I called every other vet nearby, with the same result. Finally, my own vet called back, confirmed Gaia's symptoms as most likely bloat, but referred me to Ithaca or Albany.

I knew Gaia wouldn't make it that far.

A friend informed me of the newly opened Oneonta Veterinary Hospital, with 24 hour emergency care (607-432-8570). Frantic, I called. Dr. Puritz picked up the phone and told me to bring Gaia right in. Fastest trip, Franklin to Oneonta, ever. Surgery at midnight. Good news at three in the morning.

Five weeks later, Gaia is healed and healthy. I call her my miracle dog, and will be ever grateful to Dr. Puritz for being there, taking the case and saving her life.

- M.B. Kellogg



PEAK OIL FOCUS

LOCALIZE NOW...or live to regret it?

By Eugene Marner

A short while ago, I drove down Route 17 to Middletown, NY, in order to meet my daughter at the train station there. Route 17 is being “upgraded” to Interstate 86 at a cost of who knows how many gazillions of taxpayer dollars. According to the New York State DOT website, the construction budget for the sections of road between Roscoe and Middletown is just under \$165,000,000. That includes \$96,626,000 to build a bypass at Parksville, no doubt devastating that village’s restaurants, gas stations and other businesses, and cutting the State’s tax revenues from that soon-to-be-shuttered community.

“What were they thinking?” I wondered as we drove along.

Why are the bought-and-paid-for idiots who spend our money dispensing hundreds of millions of it for yet more paved highway that in a few short years no one will be able to afford

to drive on and which the State will be unable to maintain? Global production of oil peaked in 2008 and we are now bouncing along on a very bumpy production plateau, at the end of which is not “energy independence” but a cliff. Like Wile E. Coyote, we are going to shoot out over that cliff and pedal frantically in mid-air for as long as we can — until we can’t. When we hit bottom, we’re going to find ourselves in a much simpler, less energy-intensive world than any of us have experienced in a very long time, a world in which shoe leather will be more valuable than a set of wheels that you can’t afford to run.

Don’t believe the hype about shale gas replacing imported oil. You’ll notice that the drilling companies run trucks, bulldozers, drilling rigs and compressors on diesel fuel, not shale gas. It is liquid fuels that make our economy go.

The drillers operating in Pennsylvania are all losing money on the gas they produce. They keep at it to

keep their stock prices up while they try to arrange for a pipeline to take the gas to Boston where it can be liquified and sold to the allegedly expanding economies of Asia.

Unfortunately for that plan, the Chinese and Indian economies are contracting, in step with the markets in the US and Europe. Let’s also remember that the State and Federal governments are broke and running on borrowed money—on debt. Projects like the insane conversion of adequate Route 17 into economy-destroying Interstate 86 are funded with bonds, which sounds respectable and responsible until you examine it.

The State agency issues bonds which “investors” buy and on which you and I pay the interest (mostly to the same banks that are still on taxpayer-funded life-support). When those bonds mature, the governments (who have no money with which to repay the principal) “roll over” the bonds into new bonds on which you and I continue to pay the interest. But, since

the day when the original bonds were issued, more money has been borrowed in the form of additional bonds, on which you and I pay the interest as well. One day, the amount of interest due on all the accumulating bonds will exceed all the income earned by everyone in the state or the country and, on that day, the whole Ponzi scheme collapses.

Perhaps you’ve noticed that Europe is currently imploding for exactly this reason: unrepayable debt. The only reason that the United States is not also falling apart is that, for now, we are perceived as a safe haven by those who are fleeing the Eurozone. The dollar is still the internationally accepted reserve currency which everyone needs to buy food and fuel. One day soon, however, the interest payments on the loans to our government will exceed our income and then we’ll be busted, too.

We are clearly in a serious predicament. Our politicians, alas, either don’t understand or don’t acknowledge the seriousness.

They lie or inadvertently misinform about energy, about money, about debt.

So what can we do? Let’s go back to Wile E. Coyote, bruised and angry at the bottom of the cliff. Like Wile E., we pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and (perhaps groaning with pain and disappointment) go on with the rest of our newly very simple lives. What we really need for a decent life is suddenly very clear: not a smart phone and American Idol but food, shelter, clothing, family, friends, and a community within which to find, produce, grow and nurture those same things. In Franklin, as in every community in the modern world, we have all grown more separate, more selfish, more isolated in our homes and our private concerns. We need to stop fantasizing about a future that, no matter how much we wish it would be, will not be like the easy past. The sooner we simplify our lives and relocalize our economies, the easier will be the inevitable transition.

GRAB, con’t from Page 1

not granted, then Williams could obtain a court order to force the issue. However, the permission granted by the landowner need not follow the Williams document exactly. Other such documents give more protection to the landowner and fewer rights to Williams.

By fall, Williams will have firmed-up the route of the pipeline, and then it will be seeking easement agreements from landowners. Owners should be compensated for: permanent loss of the use of the ROW, inconvenience during construction, complications from dividing a property in two, loss of the value of the whole property, rental of the land to ship gas, and future rights to the easement. Other costs should be assumed by Williams in the easement agreement, such as contingent liability and the cost of removing the abandoned pipeline.

Along pipeline routes in northern PA and the Millenium in NY, the landowners have been paid \$5 to \$25 a running foot. Use of the surface ROW alone is valued at a fraction of the fee simple (purchase price) of vacant land. In Franklin, for a corridor 50 feet wide,

that works out to about \$1 per running foot of easement. Although a corridor up to 125 feet wide will be cleared, Williams’ control of the wider strip ends with the completion.

In addition, landowners should be paid for “damages” such as structures knocked down, timber cut, and crops that could not be grown during construction.

In the ROW, no permanent structures can ever be built: no house, garage, deck, patio, or septic system. Nor can the landowner plant trees or even tall shrubs. Nothing can be built that interferes with Williams’ ability to monitor the pipeline and dig-up the pipe if necessary. However, the owner must still pay taxes on the acreage in the corridor.

Other than walking, mowing, and watering, anything that you want to do on Williams’ easement requires their written permission. The landowner must submit plans to their engineering department. After a few weeks a letter will be sent prescribing what Williams will allow. You may only begin work once this letter has been signed and returned.

The boiler plate contract from most companies

would allow more than just the pipe under their easement. While the pipeline is mostly buried, there are small surface facilities such as valves, metering and regulating stations, and equipment launch and retrieval ports. These fit entirely within their easement and are surrounded by a chain link fence.

A pipeline ROW also enters the land owner in the lottery to have a compressor station for a neighbor. The plan that Williams has submitted includes only one compressor station at the northeast end. However, even at 32,000 hp, this is not enough to move gas through the pipeline at full capacity. Additional compressor stations can (and likely will) be built along the line.

In recent years, pipeline companies have left these booster stations out of the pipeline project, possibly to reduce local opposition. For example, the Millennium Pipeline is only a few years old, but already a compressor station is being separately certified for town of Minisink, Orange County, and the company has selected the site for a second in town of Hancock, Delaware County -- only 60 miles away. Williams will

not deny that compressor stations may be built but only repeats that none are in their current plans and additional FERC permission will be required.

In the boilerplate agreement, there is no clause for rental payment. The Constitution Pipeline is designed to carry 630,000,000 cubic feet each day beneath your feet. Williams will charge companies of Cabot Oil & Gas and Southwest Energy a fee for every cubic foot, but the land owner receives nothing.

Again, the land owner has no choice but to reach some sort of agreement with Williams. Once FERC awards a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (targeted for November 2013), Williams gains the power of eminent domain to seize any easement.

However, the agreement does not have to be the boiler plate version that the landman will first offer. These versions give every advantage to the company. For example, they typically give a company all rights to future use of the easement for additional utilities such as communications, power, and even additional pipelines – all without additional payment to the landowner.

The landowner comes

to the negotiating table with a weak hand. The owner is a novice while the pipeline company has been doing this for decades. Most likely, this will be the first time an owner has seen an easement agreement for a pipeline, whereas the company knows not only what every word means but understands how the court would interpret anything not specified.

On top of this, the company will have the power of eminent domain and can ask a court to impose terms on anyone who will not agree to their offer. According to Amendment V of the U.S. Constitution, no citizen shall be “deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.” Unfortunately, over time, the courts have broadened the meaning of “public use” and narrowed the meaning of “just compensation.”

Utility projects are inherently unfair in compensating a landowner, but they can be made less unfair. By banding together to form a coalition, landowners can pool information and resources, and negotiate the best possible deal for themselves.

THE FLIGHT OF THE IMPULSE: AN AFRO-EUROPEAN SOLAR FIRST

By Stephen Morris

At approximately 4pm (GMT+2) on 5th June an aircraft, the Solar Impulse, crossed the Strait of Gibraltar, the sea passage separating Europe from Africa. The plane was more than halfway through an historic flight, the first by solar power between continents. It took off from Madrid in Spain and landed nineteen hours later in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, flying at an average speed of 32 mph and reaching a maximum height of 27,000 ft.

The arrival of the Solar Impulse intentionally coincided with the launching of work to construct the largest ever solar power plant. The first phase of a solar-thermal power plant in the southern Morocco region of Ouarzazate is part of a complex which will generate 500 megawatts by 2015. Morocco intends to build five similar solar complexes by 2020, generating in total 2,000 MW and preventing over time the emission of 3.7 million tons of CO2.

The Solar Impulse is a revolutionary carbon fibre aircraft with a wingspan wider than a Boeing 787 Dreamliner (208ft) and the weight of the average European family car (3,500lb), an unprecedented combination of size and lightness. The 12,000 solar cells built into the wing provide the power for four 10hp electric motors. By day the solar cells also recharge the 880lb lithium batteries which enable the plane to continue flying by night.

The pilot, the famous Swiss balloonist Bertrand Piccard, told Agence France Presse: “The question is not to use solar power for normal airplanes. The question is more to demonstrate that we can achieve incredible goals, almost impossible goals, with new technologies, without fuel, just with solar energy, and raise awareness that, if we can do it in the air, of course everybody can do it on the ground.”

Steven Morris regularly covers energy news in Europe for the NFR. He lives in London.

TIMELINE: CONSTITUTION PIPELINE

2012

- ✓ January Begin development
- ✓ February Announce project
- ✓ February Open Season, solicit customers
- ✓ March Contact state government officials
- ✓ April Pre-file with FERC
- ✓ April Capacity of pipeline fully subscribed
- ✓ April Begin obtaining survey permissions
- ✓ April/May Contact local government officials
- ✓ May Notify all property owners effected
- ✓ June Begin ground surveys
- ✓ June First issue of newsletter Update
- ✓ July Open Houses (5), informational
- ✓ August FERC Scoping meetings
- ✓ Fall Begin negotiating easement agreements
- ✓ October Draft environmental report

2013

- January File 7(c) application with FERC
- January Second issue of newsletter Update
- June Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- September Final Environmental Impact Statement
- November FERC order of certification

2014

- January Begin clearing ROW
- April Begin construction

2015

- March Begin shipping natural gas

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN...

By Brian Brock

In the last few months, everything has changed – but in reality, nothing has changed.

What *has* changed?

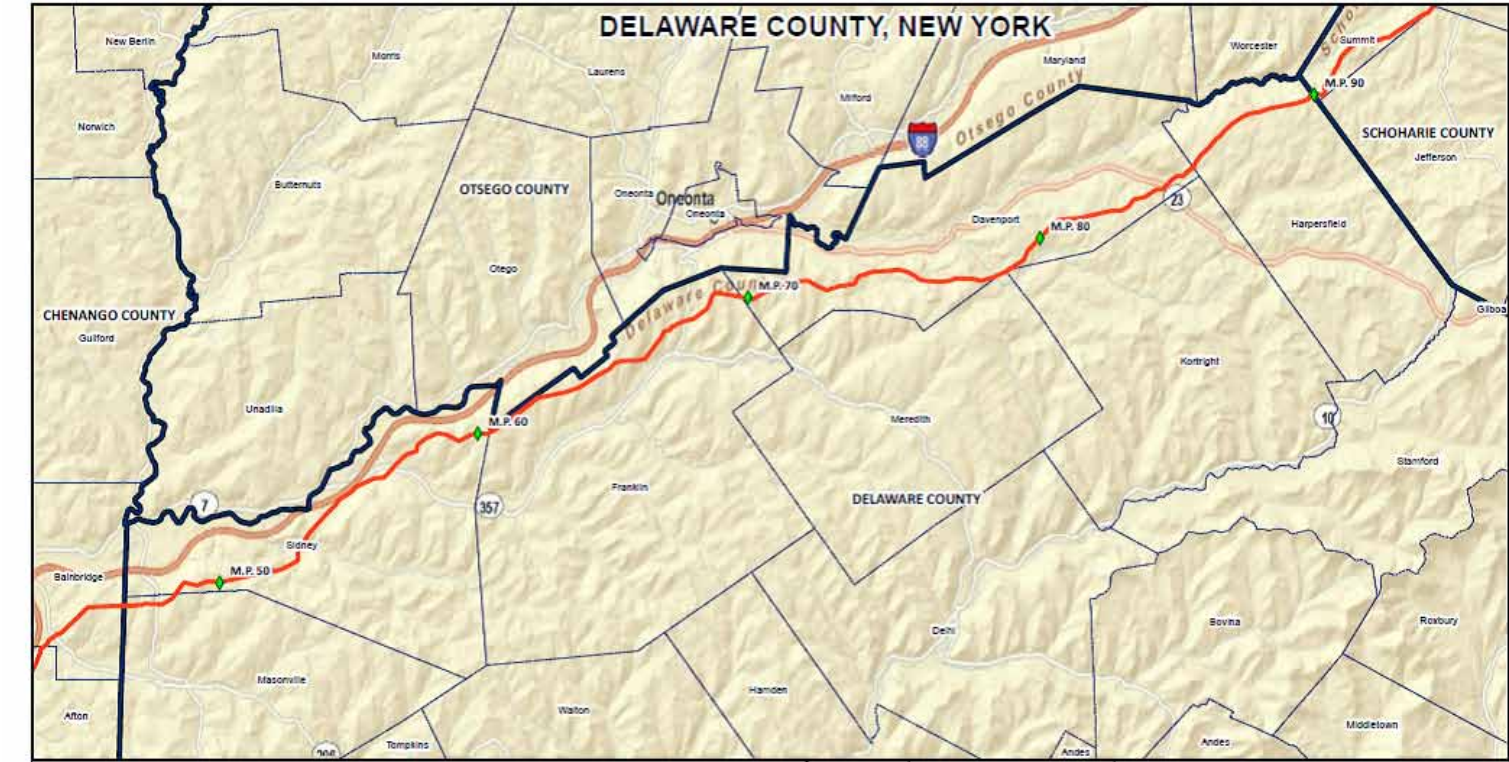
The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company seems to have dropped its Northeast Extension Project, after the partnership of Williams and Cabot announced their Constitution Pipeline.

Instead of moving the gas from the Tennessee #300 pipeline, the gas will come from the Williams Transco Pipeline further to the south.

The Northeast Extension would have been a 36” pipeline, whereas Constitution will be 30” – one third smaller. To move the same amount of gas through a smaller pipe, the pressure will be higher: 1480 psi.

What has *not* changed?

A major pipeline will still run through Franklin (see map at right). The gas will still come from the Marcellus gas fields of Pennsylv-



Proposed route of Constitution Pipeline

ALERT:

Watch for advertisements of upcoming opportunities to participate in determining the use of your land.

Williams plans to host “Open House” informational meetings: evenings at 6:30 to 8:30 on July 16th (Susquehanna Co.), 17th (Broome Co.), 18th (Chenango Co.), 25th (Delaware Co.), and 26th (Schoharie Co.).

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission plans to host scoping meetings in August.

Announcements will be published in local papers, such as The Daily Star and The Binghamton Press & Sun.



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Summer Events 2012

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~ **Yoga** (every Sunday 8am, every Thursday 10am)
 ~ **Tai Chi** (Saturday 9am)
 ~ **Artist Exhibit - Alannah Farrell**

July 7 (7:00pm) **Jessica Vecchione Film Fest**

July 8 - Aug 18 **Artist Workshops**
 Six 5 -day intensives
 information & registration: www.maywoodarts.org

July 21 (12- 4pm) **2nd Annual Community Picnic**
 with the "Saffire Dance Troupe"

July 27 (5:30-8:30pm) **Mexicana Dinner**
 Global theme, local food

Aug 24 (5:30-8:30pm) **Community Dinner**
 Global theme, local food

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month
 10:30 am

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From left to right: Jack Beal, *Self-portrait with Rubeckian and Daylilies*, 1988, oil on canvas, 30 x 23 3/4 inches; Alfred Leslie, *Self-portrait with Tobacco Cane*, 1983, oil on canvas, 84 x 60 inches; Philip Pearlstein, *Nude with Red Model Airplane*, 1988, oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches.

JACK BEAL, ALFRED LESLIE, PHILIP PEARLSTEIN

The Emergence of New Realism: Paintings and Drawings, 1960-1990

June 12 - August 10, 2012

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10AM to 5PM and on Mondays by appointment. Additional information regarding the exhibition is available on the gallery's website: www.georgeadamsgallery.com.

BAN, continued from Page 1
 just outside Cooperstown, sending shock waves literal and figurative through the local community.

Three Middlefield residents - Kim Jastremski, Elizabeth Murphy and Sarah White - all mothers of young children and alarmed at the sudden prospect of heavy industry adjacent to their rural homes, founded a group they called Middlefield Neighbors (MFN). "We decided that the most important thing we could do to help our community was to *inform* the rest of our neighbors about the situation," Kim Jastremski has said.

Middlefield Neighbors created a pamphlet about the proposed shale gas drilling in Middlefield. They distributed it door-to-door, meeting many of their neighbors for the first time and gathering email addresses for an MFN list-serve. MFN organized an informational program at Milford Central School, featuring local experts who discussed fracking's impacts and possible ways to mitigate or safeguard against them. The growing Middlefield Neighbors group also held planning meetings and attended Middlefield Town Board meetings to bring their concerns to the attention of the Board.

An important volunteer effort by MFN, spear-headed by writer Peggy Leon, was funding and conducting surveys by phone and mail of town voters and of resident and non-resident property owners. 85% of respondents in both groups were opposed to gas drilling in Middlefield. Between 7-9% were in favor, the remainder undecided. These results demonstrated overwhelming support for the actions the Town Board subsequently took to strengthen the Town's prohibition against heavy industries such as natural gas production.

After Cooperstown Holstein Corporation filed a lawsuit challenging the Town's attempt to ban gas production, MFN began an ongoing fundraising effort to help finance the Town's legal defense. When asked what has been critical to Middlefield Neighbors' success so far, Peg Leon says, "Full community concern and knowledge, coupled with a few hard working individuals who are constantly coming up with new ideas to raise awareness, garner support

and let the rest of the world know we are not going down without a fight."

Middlefield Town Supervisor, David Bliss, points to Middlefield's long history at the forefront of land use planning in the area. Middlefield was the first town in Otsego County to adopt a master plan, in 1975, and to enact zoning regulations. The Town Board has demonstrated its "steady habits" by repeatedly updating and strengthening these laws as needed to protect the Town's rural character. That foresight has given the

Despite generous help from Otsego 2000, Brewery Ommegang, MFN and others, Middlefield can't compete with Big Oil's deep pockets. Supervisor Dave Bliss has confidence in the continued willingness of the community to raise and spend the needed money, but says that funding from all sources, is just keeping pace with what the Town has already spent on its preparation and defense. The appeals will add thousands more to the cost.

Reaching out to other towns whose gas drilling bans will likely succeed

TOWN OF MEREDITH

GAS DRILLING SURVEY

Question 1: Are you in favor of gas drilling in the Town of Meredith?

	Respondents	Opposed	In Favor	Undecided
Grand Total	624	76.6%	13.6%	9.8%
Residents	372	79.6%	11.8%	8.6%
Residents NYC Watershed	189	89.9%	4.2%	5.9%
Residents Outside Watershed	183	68.9%	19.7%	11.4%
Non-Resident Landowners	234	74.8%	15.0%	10.2%
Landowners NYC Watershed	117	70.9%	14.5%	14.6%
Landowners Outside Watershed	117	78.6%	15.4%	6.0%
Anonymous	18	38.9%	33.3%	27.8%

Question 2: Should the Town of Meredith have the power to ban gas drilling?

	Respondents	Yes	No	Undecided
Grand Total	624	77.4%	15.2%	7.4%
Residents	372	78.8%	14.2%	7.0%
Residents NYC Watershed	189	85.7%	7.9%	6.4%
Residents Outside Watershed	183	71.6%	20.8%	7.6%
Non-Resident Landowners	234	77.4%	15.4%	7.2%
Landowners NYC Watershed	117	78.6%	13.7%	7.7%
Landowners Outside Watershed	117	76.1%	17.1%	6.8%
Anonymous	18	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%

Town a strong position from which to defend its authority to enforce its land use and zoning laws

After hearing arguments in the Cooperstown Holstein case, Acting State Surpeme Court Justice Donald Cerio last February upheld Middlefield's zoning laws and its authority to ban fracking, giving the town a first round victory in what is expected to be a lengthy and expensive fight through the State's appellate courts.

According to Michelle Kennedy, municipal and real estate attorney in Cooperstown and a home rule advocate, it is the appellate court decisions that will determine whether the oil and gas industry must abide by local land use laws, as other industries must, or be subject only to regulation by the state. The Middlefield case and a similar one in Dryden may determine whether any New York town can ban fracking.

or fail based on decisions in the Middlefield and Dryden cases, Middlefield Neighbors continues actively seeking additional funding while raising awareness of how critical Middlefield's legal battle is to every town and every citizen in New York.

Cat Gareth is a member of Middlefield Neighbors and designed MFN's grass roots logo.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP:

Tax-deductible donations can be sent directly to "Town of Middlefield," with a notation of "Legal Defense of Home Rule."

Mail to:
Town of Middlefield
P.O. Box 961
Cooperstown NY 13326.

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Gala Dance Under the Stars

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7/14 • Nellie McKay
Songwriter, ukulele player, mimic, satirist • Sponsored by WSKG

7/25 • Fenimore Quartet
Chamber music • Sponsored by an anonymous donor

7/28 • Too Much Information!
Monologues from real life

8/10 • Billy 'n' Jilian Nershi
Bluegrass & honkytonk • Sponsored by Courtney Funeral Home

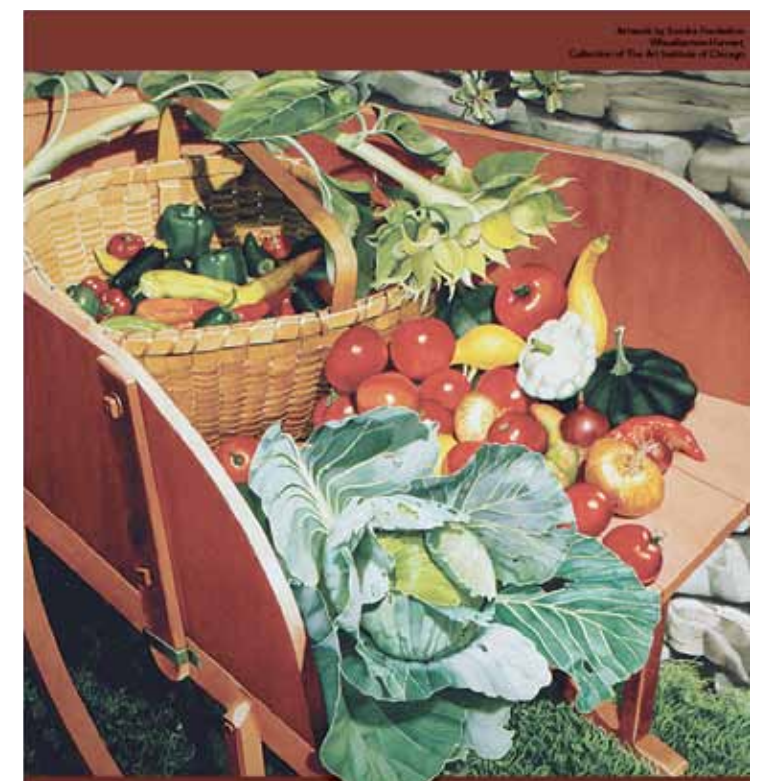
9/20 • BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet
Cajun music • Sponsored by Boynton Pro Audio

9/22 • Uncle Rock Trio
Kids Just Wanna Have Rock

9/30 • "Four Seasons, Four Years"
The Civil War: A Musical Journey

10/14 • Héctor Del Curto Tango Trio
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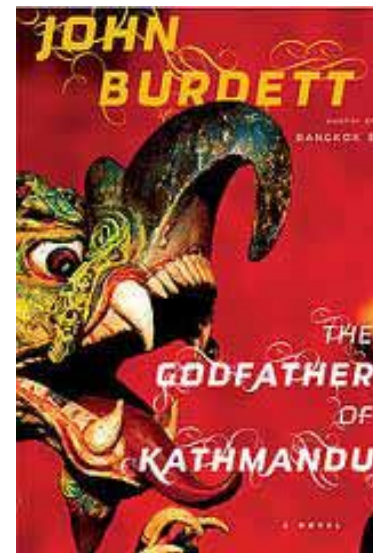
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AT THE LIBRARY

JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS

THE GODFATHER OF KATHMANDU By John Burdett

P.D. James says a good mystery is not about the crime, but the detective. This fourth in a series by John Burdett is about perhaps the only Bangkok police detective not on the take, the Buddhist, pot-smoking, mixed-race, half-Western son of a retired prostitute, Sonchai Jitpleechiep. There is enough local color here to fill fifty Alexander McCall Smith books. The crimes are shockingly gruesome, the scale of corruption vast, the cruelty casual and the sex tourist trade so pervasive and financially



MYSTERY BREWS IN THE BUTTERNUT VALLEY

By Charlotte Zoe Walker

Many of us enjoy reading a good mystery, and there are all kinds to choose from—medieval mysteries, cozy English village mysteries—but how often do we get to pick up a mystery novel that takes place in our own Butternut Valley?

Local novelist Lesley Diehl give us just that treat with her novels about an amateur sleuth who is a microbrewer in the Butternut Valley. Even more intriguing, her new novel, *Poisoned Pairings*, involves not only microbrewing, but the issues of hydrofracking and the economy of the Butternut Valley, with her microbrewers worried about contamination of their most precious asset—the pure water that goes into their brews. Here are two of her characters whispering together at a meeting:

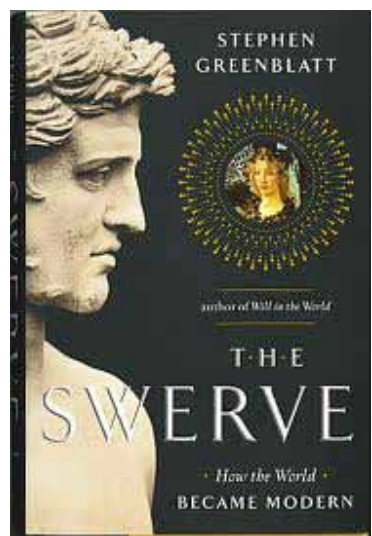
Rafe and I glanced at one another, knowing what the other was thinking. Water was the

rewarding that drug running, revenge, greed, hate crimes and directing traffic still leave plenty of real work for even the most twisted cops. You can start this series here, or with the first one, *Bangkok 8* - no matter, the message is the same with all of them: you can live here for a thousand years, *farang*, you will never understand us.

THE SWERVE: HOW THE WORLD BECAME MODERN By Stephen Greenblatt

Roman writer and fervent Epicurean Lucretius wrote a book around 50 BC called “On the Nature of Things,” which posited the radical idea that the gods are not the reason things happen, nature is — also that the world must be composed of tiny, irreducible objects that combine in different ways, and the earth and the stars and humans must all be made of essentially the same materials. He didn’t use the word “atoms,” but he certainly described them at a time when everyone believed that the world consisted of only four ele-

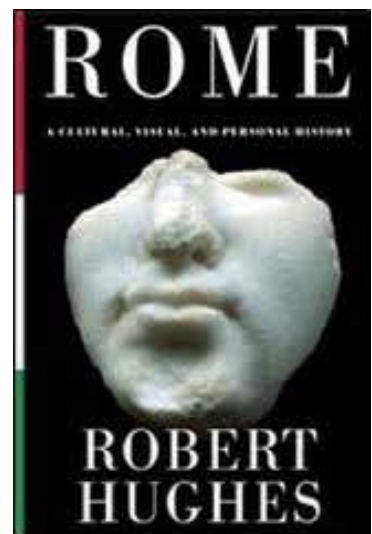
ments - earth, wind, fire and water - and that storms and earthquakes were caused by angry gods. Then the book disappeared for 1450 odd years until, as far as we know, the single surviving copy was discovered by a book collector in a German monastery. You may think, “big deal” but it was hugely influential. The man who



wrote “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” had no less than seven well-read copies of Lucretius in his personal library.

Greenblatt, who wrote a wonderful book about Shakespeare a few years ago, *Will in the World*, combines the mystery story of making, copying and col-

lecting manuscripts in the pre-Gutenberg era with the history of Epicurean philosophy, making it feel as if you are reading an adventure story, not a textbook.



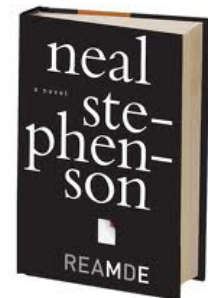
ROME: A CULTURAL, VISUAL, AND PERSONAL HISTORY By Robert Hughes

Art critic Robert Hughes’ book *Rome* is a highly opinionated history and art tour of the Eternal City. Major tourist attractions are almost ignored, having been much covered elsewhere, and there are no recommendations for restaurants, no shopping tips for hipsters, no advice on where to stay. Bernini is much more present than Michelangelo, Caravaggio more than Raphael, the Piazza Navona more than St. Peter’s. There are wonderful asides on how hard it is to move and raise a 500 ton obelisk without breaking it and without the benefit of a modern crane, on the fact that ancient Rome probably looked and sounded more

like modern Calcutta than the white marble city we see on TV and at the movies. While it wouldn’t take more than a week-long to visit all the spots he talks about at length, they are the places you would visit on your second or third visit to Rome, not your first.

REAMDE By Neal Stephenson

For me, all Stephenson’s books have to be judged against *Cryptonomicon*, his amazing multi-generational WWII adventure story, and this comes close. The title is a common misspelling of Read Me, a file found on almost all computer programs. Stephenson has thrown everything at the wall in this one -- Russian mobsters, Chinese



computer hackers, computer geek billionaires, industrial spies, regular spies, surveillance cameras, survivalists and numerous other fringe groups -- and most of it sticks. It’s also deliciously sly. This book screams “make a blockbuster movie out of me,” but I hope they never do. Every part, even the women, would have to be played by Bruce Willis.

inspiring part of reading *Poisoned Pairings*, as we see the characters cooperating to improve the economy with small businesses like restaurants and micro-breweries and related tourist attractions.

Asked what inspired her to include fracking as part of her story, Diehl said: “It was a natural . . . because it’s the most significant local environmental issue here. Since I think about the issue of clean and abundant water for making beer, fracking fit into the brewing concern.”

She went on to say that the most challenging part of writing about fracking “was to make certain I could inform the reader without being preachy or letting the issue take over the book. *Poisoned Pairings* is, after all, a work of fiction



Lesley Diehl - Photo by Rafael Pacheco

See DIEHL, continued on Page 14

UpState Arts

By Duane Bronson

I have been asked to write about art in upstate New York by your usual contributor, Christopher Wright. I am happy to do so, with one caveat: check your preconceptions at the door, dear reader. For instance, what if I asked: just what do you mean by “art”?

My old Webster’s dictionary provides at least fourteen definitions, which range from “the quality, production, expression, or realm of what is beautiful” to “an artifice or artful device,” as in “the arts and wiles of politics.” While my own artful preoccupation for the past seven years has been “political art,” I will mercifully spare you from such “wiles”.

For our purposes here, I will confine myself to Webster’s definition number two: “the class of objects subject to aesthetic criteria.”

Skipping any discussion of what that highfalootin’ word “aesthetic” could mean, I will state up front that I am more interested in the people who interact with this class of objects than in the objects themselves. That is, I am interested in creativity. Old dusty paintings do not hold my interest very long. But like that PBS program about antiques on the roads, some people have decided that certain *objets d’art* are valuable, while other objects are not. Like the trees that fall in the forest without anyone hearing, some art objects never get the attention of important people. So what, and anyway, who cares? But let’s look at it another way.

Please sit back, take a few deep breaths, and clear your mind. Let’s imagine for a while that it is the objects of art themselves that care about artful critique and societal retention. What if we do not make and own art objects,

henceforth to be called *artifacts*? What if the human race is merely a vehicle, a medium by which artifacts come into being and are maintained?

You’re thinking I’m nuts? Michael Pollan suggested it about fruit and vegetables. And at least one well-respected sociologist has proposed exactly that. In chapter seven of *Changing the World; A Framework for the Study of Creativity*, sociologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi writes in less than metaphorical terms about the relationship between memes (cultural artifacts), and genes (humans). I can’t transcribe the entire chapter but here’s a taste: Csikszentmihalyi suggests that evolution involves two processes, biological and cultural, which run parallel. While we know that genes are important to the preservation of the human race, and culture is a way that humans pass on knowledge which is important for survival, the scary thing is that some artifacts can be created and grow without improving the chances of survival of the race. Think of bombs and industrial chemicals. So, are there objects of art that are like parasites, using the human race as a good warm petri dish?

Coming back down to Planet Earth, I will hope that we now see our interaction with aesthetic artifacts a bit differently. Artists make the darn things, then a whole bunch of other people look at them or listen to them, and decide if they’re worth keeping around in an obviously symbiotic relationship, or if they need immediately to be dumped in a hazardous waste receptacle.

And so, dear Franklin Register readers: you have a very important job to do. You are part of the art field whether you like it or not. You must



help protect the planet from harmful memes. You can only do this by educating yourself about art. Don’t wait, do it now! We are under a code chartreuse alert!

And I will only add that Hollywood has a lot to answer for.

Work cited: Feldman D.H., Csikszentmihalyi, M., and Gardner, H. (1994) *Changing the World; A Framework for the Study of Creativity*. Praeger Publishers, Westport CT.

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THE GARDEN GATE

By Penelope R. King

Nature has a way of always surprising us, and this year is no exception. We had a very warm winter with little snow. Snow is the best winter mulch there is, and if it arrives and stays on the ground throughout the cold months, it melts slowly into ground that never quite freezes. Excellent for most plants.

But not last winter! Some of you may find that a few varieties in your flower gardens have died. You did nothing wrong; they died from lack of protection and moisture. This year, spring (or rather summer) arrived in March. All plants responded to the unusual warmth, and then the temperature plummeted to 12 degrees above zero. Twice. This killed or damaged more plants. And then it was dry for weeks. More damage and death. How can we deal with this?

First, we need to expect more weird weather like this from now on, so make sure you buy plants that can take it. Any marginally



hardy plant may not like all these swings. Any foliage that is variegated will be less tough than that same plant with ordinary green foliage. Stick with tough plants. There are lists of them on-line, in books and magazine articles.

Second, the USDA says we have warmed to zone 5 in our region, but don't believe it unless you have a particularly lovely microclimate or live in a village that is not in a deep valley. We can still get to 25 below zero, and temperature isn't the only condition that affects hardiness. Plants exposed to winter winds, especially north winds, can suffer. Lack of moisture when plants go dormant and the

ground freezes can cause suffering, too, as well as too much rain on plants that need sharp drainage. *Digitalis* (Foxglove), *Heuchera* (Coral Bells), *Dicentra*

exima and *luxuriant* (Summer blooming Bleeding Hearts) are just a few that need sharp drainage. Since most of us have clay soils around here, and clay holds moisture, I usually add a big handful of gravel to any planting hole below plants that need sharp drainage. Don't get me wrong, clay has lots of nutrients. It just needs some help to make it possible for roots to penetrate it. And don't add sand; it will create concrete when it dries.

Third, when some plants die in the garden, you get to rethink the arrangement and buy more. I had a client once whose husband said that the only thing he

disliked about her hobby is that she was always changing things around. I laughed and told him it was what gardeners do. They find out about a new plant they want, so have to rearrange to accommodate the "newbie." Or somebody gives them a bunch of Iris, so the garden has to change. Or a plant has outgrown its spot, or one nearby is crowding, so somebody has to be moved. It's what we all do; I do it at home myself. I think it's fun and I just love buying new plants to learn about and enjoy. So think of the problems or holes in your garden as opportunities. Mourn the dead, but move on.

Thinking of good drainage and root growth brings another topic to mind. When planting shrubs and trees, dig wide planting holes. Written instructions provided with plants assume a lot, including what type of soil you are planting in. Since we have clay and rocks here (lots and lots of rocks), dig holes just to the depth of the rootball or pot, but three times the width of the rootball or container. Do not amend the soil with anything like peat moss because those plant roots

will eventually hit the wall of the hole and will be better prepared by growing in local soils. Just remove any rocks bigger than your fist, add more soil if needed and plant. Add some rock phosphate, bone meal or even triple phosphate to the planting hole as you fill it in, but no other amendments, especially not nitrogen. Your tree or shrub needs to settle in and grow roots in the first year or two, not be pushed to produce more greenery.

Meanwhile, we are lucky that the early drought seems to have ended. I know rain and then sun and then rain is annoying, but would you want to live in New Mexico?? It is just warming up enough at night to put in tender plants like impatiens and basil, but go ahead. Fertilize well during the rest of the growing season, and most will catch up. Enjoy the beautiful shades of green all around us, and take the point of view of the plant. That alone will get you through.

Penny King has been a professional organic gardener for 28 years, designing, planting and maintaining gardens.

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2. Most local communities support fracking.

FALSE

The truth is this is more industry propaganda repeated by compromised politicians. Independent polling found that 72% of Delaware County residents oppose fracking.

From Albany to Buffalo, a growing list of over 110 localities have banned fracking, zoned it out, or passed moratoriums.

3. Fracking will revitalize local communities.

FALSE

The truth is that fracking is a boom-and-bust operation. Average well life is much shorter than predicted, and many leases never deliver because not all wells and regions are productive or profitable.

Restaurants, bars, and some retailers may see more temporary business, and a few big landowners may profit in the short term, but taxpayers will pick up increased costs of road maintenance, law enforcement, emergency response, and health care. Tax revenues from fracking rarely live up to the promises of the gas industry and politicians.

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THE GOOD PROPHETS:

Two Films of Catastrophe

By Nick Albaugh

Melancholia, Lars von Trier, dir.;
Take Shelter, Jeff Daniels, dir.

One of my more impressionable childhood encounters with dire anticipations was a neighbor's construction of a bomb shelter.

Our street on the outskirts of town transitioned reassuringly into vistas of working farms and fallow acreage. Any project that interrupted the given harmony of time and place typically proceeded inconspicuously and efficiently.

An intervening side yard of rose bushes, cherry, and pear trees frustrated a good view of the construction, and my parents, tolerantly dismissive of the matter, offered little comment. We never saw the completed work.

In those days, our teachers drilled us to duck under our desks in the event of nuclear attack. A generation later the collapse of the Soviet Union was said to obviate the threat of nuclear war, but others kept emerging, some long predicted.

In 1860, John Ruskin produced the most salient argument against industrial revolution fueled by rampant capitalism. In the new century, Huxley and Orwell previewed totalitarian states of pacification and perpetual war.

Standard Oil contract-

ed with the re-established House of Saud in 1933, and WWII further demonstrated issues of oil security. Not long after my neighbors built their bomb shelter, Hubbert modeled peak oil. Rachel Carson was researching the true costs of industrial agriculture.

Global warming, however, looms as the profound menace today, aggravated locally by our frustration at contributory practices of extreme fossil extraction such as fracking and pipelines. Resistance and contemplating the cumulative impacts, exhausts persuasive prophetic voices.

Against this vast inventory of alarm we engage Lars von Trier's *Melancholia* as a projection of cosmic black bile from the depression of his central character, Justine—fully realized by Kirsten Dunst—whose dysfunction is so advanced that she casually betrays her husband on their wedding night under a sky where an eponymous rogue planet is occulting Antares on its trajectory to earth orbit. (That the red star has failed in its nominal role as bulwark "against Ares" is not just imagery, but portent.)

Iconic rows of topiary will cast double shadows as the planet approaches. Von Trier deferentially talked about his film's vulgar incursion into German romanticism, and a soundtrack from *Tristan und Isolde* helps secure the identification. His choice of uselessly privileged celebrants acting out their despair in a palatial setting could well parallel the last days of the enfeebled gods of Valhalla.

There is no rapture in *Melancholia*—where consequence is meaningless and defiance reduces to the self-negation of suicide—and so no need of a Brangane to warn an adulterous couple. Justine's last act is a gesture at comfort-framing a discordant "magic cave" of branches to share with her sister and nephew while they await the extinction of what she has intuited is the only life in the universe.

The wonder is the beauty of it. Jeff Daniels, in contrast, sets his film among the working class. The characters of *Take Shelter* dirty their hands and worry about bills. His protagonist, however, has larger concerns, visions of an apocalyptic storm of uncertain origin; that he works in the drilling

fields of Ohio is latent irony.

Expertly played by Michael Shannon, Curtis is a sympathetic character who could lead us to believe in his visions—if he himself were convinced. But his mother was hospitalized with paranoid schizophrenia at about his age, so Curtis questions his own sanity.

The visions prove stronger than his doubts, however, and he undertakes an epic reconstruction of the backyard storm shelter. Far from *Melancholia*'s celestial Asgardians, Curtis is a good Nibelung literally grounded in the earth. He is not only employed in its exploitation but sees in it his family's salvation.

By agonizing degrees, his obsession costs him friends, job, and community standing. At a Lion's Club dinner Curtis morphs into a raving prophet, cementing the case for his paranoia.

Events overwhelm him. His loss of health insurance forecloses an operation for his deaf daughter, and his wife finally delivers an ultimatum; a psychiatrist recommends meds and institutionalization.

Abandoning his shelter, Curtis submits to the plan, and the family (as in *Mel-*

See FILMS, con't on page 15

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DIEHL, con't from Page 10 and most importantly a
mystery and its goal is to entertain. I leave the rest to the
politicians and the citizens to work out."

Lesley Diehl and her husband Glenn Nilson, also a
mystery writer, spend half the year at their home in Mor-
ris, and half in a rural part of Florida where cows are as
abundant as they are here. (She has a second, humorous
series of mystery novels that take place in Florida.) Die-
hl grew up on a farm in northern Illinois, and feels very
much at home with the rural nature of the Butternut Valley.
Her father milked a herd of Holsteins for years, and in a
wonderful blog on her website, *Cows and Why I Love 'Em*,
Diehl tells about those childhood experiences: "I spent a
lot of my childhood years out in the barn with him. He
played the old radio tuned to either opera or country mu-
sic while he milked. He claimed the cows liked it."

One of the first things you notice when opening a Hera
Knightsbridge mystery is the lively writing style. Hera,
the independent microbrewer with a love for sleuthing,
narrates the novel in a spirited voice, and like any good
amateur sleuth, she gets herself into some serious scrapes
while the suspense builds. You get the feeling that Lesley
Diehl enjoys her writing and wants her readers to enjoy
it just as much. Writing fiction was something she always
wanted to do, and after retirement from a career as a psy-

Remember the golf balls? If not, you'll wish you did, in our latest installment of...

MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!

It's payback time!

Sally and Jerry came over to my
place for some talk and scotch. Sally
brought the golf balls. We donned
cotton gloves and began rubbing
them all around with soft cloth.

Jerry knew who cleaned Mayor
Jimbo's office. Somebody's third
wife's cousin's niece. Some nights,
he'd sub for her.

One night, Jerry poured the golf
balls all over the corridor and office
floors. Left an upended box like it was
an accidental spill. Jimbo would have
to pick them all up to get to his desk.

Sally stood on the ridge over-
looking the drill site. Close in to the
trees. It was dark. About 2:00 in the
morning.

The site was well lit down below,
surrounded by a high cyclone fence
and razor wire. Sally lined up about
forty tees and set balls on each one.

Then she drew out her Ping 3-wood like
it was a surgical tool. I showed a flash-
light down the row of teed-up balls.

Twenty-seven tankers for haul-
ing water lined up side-by-side. Sally
took out every single windshield in
thirty-two shots.

I was in love.

She got pissed 'cause she couldn't
concentrate. We were laughing too
hard.

And every single ball had Jimbo's
fingerprints on it.

Next, Danny's catapult. A work of
art. It could hurl 150 yards no problem.

Steve put together about fifty
hydrogen sulfide-loaded balloons.
Smelled like rotten eggs. It took
about ten shots to get the range, but
the first direct hit was sweet. It hit the
truck's hood, exploded, and splashed
right into the driver's seat through the
broken windshield.

Even Sally couldn't stop laughing.

These trucks wouldn't be going
anywhere anytime soon. Without
trucked-in water, they couldn't drill.
Without drilling, they couldn't frack.
Without fracking, they'd get no gas
and poison no people.

Next?

Free dinner anytime? Don't mind
if I do.

Homeschooling-Bobby's mom
was the best cook around and ran the
diner. His dad owned the garage and
the only tow truck in town.

I gave Bobby a fifty pound sack
of Jimbo's bad potatoes, bought at the
market for compost. Every time one
of the drilling trucks stopped by the
diner, Bobby stuffed a potato into the
exhaust pipe.

Homeschooling 101. Strategic
Internal Combustion Exhaustion.
Three credits.

The trucks wouldn't start. Bob-
by's dad could charge a premium to
tow and make up some story before
'repairing' each truck.

I think I'll have Freedom Fries
for starters.

When I got home, a big brown
paper bag was waiting for me on
the porch. I opened it and closed it
immediately.

From Wilson. Well, his dog any-
way. I don't know what he was feeding
that dog, but this stuff was first class
industrial grade: moist and toxic.

I told Jeanie to meet me at my
brother-in-law's house. While she hid
in the bushes, I made my way to the
front door, put the bag on the welcome
mat, lit it with a match, and leaned on
the doorbell. Then I dashed across
the yard and dove into the bushes

Bro-in-law came to the door and
began stomping the fire out in his
bedroom slippers, cursing non-stop

He turned and walked back into
the house.

Wait for it.

Screamed at the top of his lungs.

Jeanie was laughing so hard I had
to put my hand over her mouth.

It's the nuclear argument.

Putting aside the fatally toxic, un-
treatable, and unstorable waste pro-
duced by nuclear power, a certain
adolescent understanding exists. Red-
undant systems, inspections, back-

chology professor, Lesley
decided to fulfill her dream. She
warmly encourages others who want to write
as well: "Just write. Just sit
down and write. And call
yourself a writer. If some-
one asks you what you've
published, don't say 'noth-
ing.' Say "nothing yet.""

You could order a copy
of *Poisoned Pairings* online,
but why not help our local
economy, and pick up a
copy at the Strawberry and
Vine Gift Shop in Morris, or

The Green Toad Book Store in Oneonta? Lesley will be
doing several book launch events this summer. She's a
wonderful speaker and a pleasure to talk with—so if you
get the chance, do meet the author of *Poisoned Pairings*.
(Check lesleydiehl.com for details.)

*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.*

ups, etc. are all active in the nuclear
reactor world. Why? It works okay
most of the time, but if there's an ac-
cident? It's a doozy.

Chernobyl? Twenty-four years
and many birth defects later, it's still
not clean.

Fracking? Same deal. Works
okay for a while. Then, an accident.

Imagine the market for bottled
water in New York City if the water-
shed were poisoned.

Yes! They got her. Donna's under
arrest.

Of course we had nothing to do
with it.

Karyn was the newly elected ca-
nine corrections officer. An animal
lover through and through.

Her farm was more like a zoo with-
out cages and customers. Everything
ran free. I didn't much like going over
there because I was always afraid I'd
step on a gerbil or something. But
this time she asked me to check the
post office and bring back a perfor-
ated crate come in from Madagascar.

She was so excited, she talked
nonstop as we opened the crate.

Their Latin name meant 'spirits of
the night', 'haunter', or 'ghost.'

Very rare.

A two thousand-watt light bulb
went on over my head.

The lid slid off.

There were four lemurs.

Jerry came with me to disinter the
guy we buried under the deer.

The deer was gone. So was the
effigy.

I figured all we needed were a
couple of leg bones.

So during the night we went to the
park and unearthed the body found
at the Farmers Market.

Again, just a couple of legbones.

They smelled something terrible.

Sooner or later Donna had to take
her SUV into the garage. Bobby let

Continued next page

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size rings.*

MURDER, continued from Page 14

me know when she did.

Karyn loaded up the big cage on her
truck with the dogs she'd captured and
delivered regularly to the county shelter. I
told her to meet me at the garage.

We replaced Donna's spare tire with
the bones. As she drove away, I released
the dogs. They went straight for the back
of her SUV, barking wildly and throwing
themselves against the bumper.

Everyone in town turned to watch as

she drove by.

The Donna doggie parade.

Just beyond the Farmers Market
grounds a state trooper pulled her over.
They both walked to the back of her car
yelling at the dogs and scattering them.
We saw the trooper ask her a question
and open the back. Then he picked up
the wheel well cover.

There were four femurs.

To be continued...

FILMS, con't from Page 13

ancholia, two adults and a child) leave for
a final vacation together. Their struggle is
over. In the denouement Daniels will sal-
vage the only satisfactory resolution to the
film's paradoxes.

Most of us have encountered lesser
haunts of depression and paranoia—figu-
rative or diagnosed. If art can elevate their
ultimate visitation as beauty, why can't we
similarly transform an abiding forfeiture of
empowerment?

Good prophecy anchors in the flow of
time, looking both ways. Reading the stones,
investigators have advanced the role of the
Siberian Traps in the mass Permian extinc-
tions. Through a million years of volcanism,
nature didn't care.

It took her 250 million more to evolve a
consciousness that could.

*Nick Albaugh writes a weekly column for the
Walton Reporter.*

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What are we about?

The Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil was au-
thorized on December 6th, 2005 by a Town Board Resolu-
tion. 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 Ltd., we are a not-
for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents.
We meet once a month, at 7 P.M. in the Town Board
Room. All are welcome, to offer 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 ef-
ficient 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@yahoo.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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12/10/11	Tupper Hill Rd	156.8	Vacant w/Improv.	168,000	225,000	Thompson, Deborah	Brown & Davis Ex.
1/09/12	3221 Russell Rd	0.5	1 Family Residence	55,000	78,000	Renner, Jay	Taggart, Leanne
1/10/12	1594 Fleming Rd	31.89	Rural Residence	240,000	334,000	Nardone (Estate)	Levitan, Daniel
1/26/12	Round Top Rd	1	Vacant w/Improv.	12,000	9,500	Hennessey, Laurie	Andrews, Michael W.
1/27/12	State Hgwy 357	2.7	Vacant w/Improv.	14,000	500	Larrabee, Deborah	Catalic, Sandro
3/22/12	Merrickville Rd	61	Private Forest	79,000	145,000	Starlight Forests LLC	Taggart, Patricia
3/26/12	East Brook Rd	20	Private Forest	33,000	35,000	Bailey, Douglas L.	Walley, Brian
4/04/12	669 Main St	0.73	1 Family Residence	122,000	220,000	Ganim, Carolyn M.	Seltzer, David S.
4/23/12	245 State Hgwy 28S	8.4	1 Family Residence	74,000	70,000	Ross, John (Estate)	Dickman, Edward
4/23/12	Pomeroy Rd	22.48	Rural Vacant >10 ac	37,800	30,000	Wallace, Michael S.	Stanley, Kirk
5/17/12	6750 County Hgwy 16	6.34	1 Family Residence	150,000	240,000	Vredenburgh, Douglas	Scanlan, Kim P.

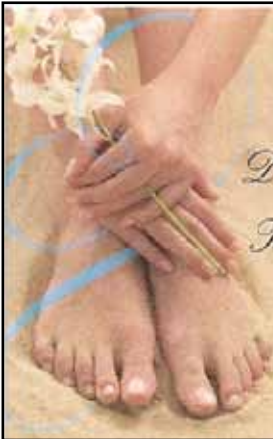


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CLIMATE CHANGE: ONLY A MYTH?

- March 2012 set more than 7,700 U.S. daily-high temperature records. More than 90 cities set monthly-high records. In the Midwest and Great Lakes states, average monthly temperatures are at least 10 degrees above normal.
- The 12-month period from May 2011 to April 2012 was the hottest in U.S. history.
- Carbon dioxide levels in the asmosphere have reached 391 parts per million, the highest in 800,000 years.
- The retreat of the glaciers in the Alps is causing the Matterhorn to crumble.
- As of May 8, 2012, the House of Representatives had passed 209 anti-environmental bills, making it the most anti-environmental Congress in history.
- Birds are singing more loudly than they did 30 years ago, in order to be heard above the urban din.

- Courtesy of SIERRA Magazine