

TREADWELL WATER WOES:

In Search of \$1.65 million

By Brian Brock

In 1885, the Croton Water System began with a tap into a spring on Tupper Hill to supply hydrants. It progressed from a few public faucets to delivering water into a few dozen homes and businesses.

After seventy-five years of tinkering, the system was in such a sorry state that the residents of Treadwell petitioned the Town of Franklin to take over. In 1961, the town board established the Treadwell Water District (TWD), bought the system, and began making repairs. In turn, residents formed the Treadwell Water Commission to manage the system. With installation of meters, billing could be based on usage.

Another six decades passed. The town was involved in the adding of a chlorinator to the system in the '90s. But with the turn of the century, the town board disengaged from its responsibilities, leaving hamlet residents to fend for themselves.

An under-resourced system, it fell

again into a sorry state as noted by a survey from NYS Department of Health in 2023 and a report from Cedarwood Engineering & Environmental Service PLLC in 2024. Its primary well is nearly a mile away from reservoir, and the secondary well, although adjacent, yields an inadequate flow of sulfurous water. Neither is on town land. Likewise, the reservoir is on private property and in need of repair. The chlorinator also needs repair. At times of high flow, it does not hold water long enough for treatment as specified by the NYS Department of Health. The distribution system is a patchwork of pipes of various materials and ages. Last winter, a water pipe on Church Street froze, disrupting supply for weeks. Then in summer, the primary well pump failed and was replaced. One out of six of the service lines between mains and houses are toxic lead pipes. Inside some houses, water meters are broken.

See TREADWELL, con't on Page 11

CONSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTING

By Brian Brock

The right of way for Constitution Pipeline would run 135 miles from Town of Brooklyn, Susquehanna County in Pennsylvania to Town of Wright, Schoharie County in New York. After construction, the company would keep clear a corridor 50 feet wide. While landowners still pay taxes on this land, the agreement bans them from construction above or excavation below. This pipeline ROW could be accessed from any public road that crosses it. In addition, the company would build private access roads in between, five in Franklin alone. Some riders of ATVs and snowmobiles have been known to happily trespass in ROWs.

A ROW easement across a property could be a financial hardship, the more intrusive the greater. For example, the difference between a ROW running across the back 40 or across the backyard. Reduction could be as little as 50% of the value of land in the ROW or as much as 30% of the value of the whole property. Analyzing sales of properties closer than two miles to the ROW in New York for two years before and after the announcement of the Constitution Pipeline project in 2012, Boslett and Hill (Resource and Energy Economics, 2019) found a price drop of over 9%

(about \$12,000) compared to more distant properties.

Where the pipeline comes within a few hundreds of feet of structures, another financial penalty could be an increase in insurance premiums.

A decade ago, Constitution Pipeline Company paid landowners for easements, so they should not expect additional payments. Exceptions are those dozens of landowners whose easements were seized by eminent domain and since been returned. They would receive payments either from signing an agreement or a second seizure. In the last decade, some people bought property with a pipeline easement who were unaware of it. The seller pocketed the payment a decade ago and passed on the consequences to the buyer.

Here, the bedrock and glacial soils are not permeable. Blasting or digging a trench five to seven feet deep and then backfilling with sifted soil around the pipe can provide a highway for groundwater. Changes are possible to shallow springs and subsurface drainage. In addition, the trenching across streams can release spoils downstream. Compensation from any damage done would be difficult to obtain.

While affected parcels could lose value, the equipment of the pipeline would add to property taxes collected by Town of Franklin.

See ACCOUNTING, continued on Page 18



THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT

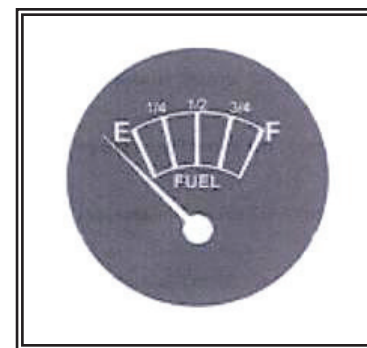
By John O'Connor

With legislation passed by congress and signed by the president this year, Delaware County will be hit especially hard by the cuts to Medicaid and the rippling effects this will cause. Delaware County is one of the poorest counties in the state and will receive the brunt of the cuts to the estimated one and a half million people who will lose their health insurance, and the loss of \$13 billion a

year from New York's health care resources. Obviously, this will lead to hardship among many of our neighbors, who will experience more illness and debt, and even death. When a hospital loses Medicaid funding, or if more patients can't pay their bills, hospitals are forced to cut back on personnel. Even the wealthiest patient arriving with a heart attack will get care that is stretched thinner, increasing the likelihood of severe outcomes.

But what is little known is that state legislation is being proposed that could change all this for New

See HEALTH, continued on Page 19



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:

Bulletin Board	Pg. 2
Village Board Beat	Pg. 3
Green Banks Garden	Pg. 5
Kitchen Basics	Pg. 6
Inside Local Realty	Pg. 10
Real Property Sales	Pg. 20

LOCAL NEWS:

Food Pantry	Pg. 3
Town Website Reboot	Pg. 3
Xmas Trees on Main	Pg. 4
New Rotary Shed	Pg. 5
Sidney Center News	Pg. 10
Xmas Stroll	Pg. 15
Town Taxes	Pg. 16

SUSTAINABILITY:

OLT Saving Land	Pg. 7
Dear Native Grapes	Pg. 7
A Walk in the Forest	Pg. 8
Farm Weddings	Pg. 8
Stewards of the Land	Pg. 9
Messy Maintenance	Pg. 9

LOCAL ARTS:

Painting Harlem	Pg. 11
Book Review	Pg. 12
Holding Artemis	Pg. 12
Poet's Corner	Pg. 12
Catskill Cats	Pg. 13

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

ATTENTION CLIENTS OF GEORGE R. SILVERNELL, ATTORNEY at LAW 21 Walnut St., Oneonta, New York

The Law Office of George R. Silvernell at 21 Walnut Street, Oneonta, NY is closed. For many years George worked here serving the legal needs of his clients in this community. These were cherished years and fulfilling work.

Mr. Silvernell died on December 31, 2023. A Receiver has been appointed by the Supreme Court to close the Law Office.

If you were a client of Mr. Silvernell and are interested in obtaining your file, Will, Abstract of Title, Trust Account or any other documents that may be held by the Law Office of George R. Silvernell please call the Law Office at (607) 432-7222. If no one answers the phone please leave a detailed message. Someone will return your call. Arrangements can be made for you to obtain your documents.

Unclaimed files will be purged according to standard documentation retention rules. If you are currently being represented by Mr. Silvernell in an ongoing legal matter you are encouraged to retain a new lawyer.

Dennis B. Laughlin, Esq., Receiver and Escrow Agent
15 South Main Street, Ste. 103, Oneonta, NY 13820

Steven Z. Feuer, Esq., Attorney for the Executrix
Of the Estate of George R. Silvernell
23 Ford Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820

CHRISTMAS TREES ON MAIN

A FRANKLIN ROTARY CLUB PROJECT

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The New Franklin Register NFR page: <https://franklinlocal.org/nfr-all/>



Franklin Local Franklin Local homepage: <https://franklinlocal.org>

SEE FULL ARTICLE: **CHRISTMAS TREES ON MAIN, ON PAGE 4**



Greater Franklin Food Pantry

574 Main Street, PO Box 209, Franklin NY 13775
Open Fridays 2-4PM, 2nd Saturdays 10AM-12 noon or by appointment

Call or text: 607-386-1601

Pantry Hours

Individuals or families residing in the town of Franklin, including Treadwell and the former Treadwell school district, may shop once a month on Fridays 2-4PM, 2nd Saturdays 10AM-12 noon or by appointment. First-time visitors are required to fill out a brief and confidential questionnaire.



We welcome donations:

- Please mail checks to our Post Office Box
- Food (non-expired) may be dropped off during pantry hours, or call to arrange another time or pickup.

Holiday Boxes

In coordination with Headstart, Franklin Central School and Delaware Opportunities, the Greater Franklin Food Pantry supplies boxes of Thanksgiving and Holiday meals every year for families in need.

Sponsor a box: You may sponsor a box for \$50. Please send a check to our PO Box or donate online.

Receive a box: Do you want to be on the list to receive a box? Reach out to the pantry with your information.

Holiday Boxes include Gift card for meat or main choice, potatoes and vegetables, dessert **and** basic staples to help you through the week when kids are home from school.

Sponsorships are welcome any time throughout the fall and winter.



Thanksgiving Box

Sponsor or Reserve by Oct. 30

Holiday Box

Sponsor or Reserve by Nov. 30





FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

By Amber Gray

The Greater Franklin Food Pantry moved to the village in the summer of 2020 and has seen continued growth in patronage, volunteers, and services ever since. The pantry's mission is to help alleviate food emergencies for local families, achieved through our weekly open hours, Fridays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., as well as by a growing number of projects.

Expanded Open Hours

In summer of 2025, the steering committee and volunteers decided to try opening on the second Saturday each month, 10 a.m. to noon, on a trial basis through September. We discovered that Saturday morning hours were much-needed by neighbors unable to make Friday afternoons, so we have seen several families each Saturday. The pantry will be continuing our second Saturday open hours for the foreseeable future. Those who are unable to visit during Friday or Saturday open hours are welcome to call for an appointment at an alternate time. Volunteers also make deliveries on a case-by-case basis to homebound neighbors.

Harvest Box Program

In June of 2025, the pantry began participating in the Delaware County Office for the Aging's Harvest Box program for ten of our regular senior pantry neighbors. Every other Wednesday, seniors met with volunteer Susan Patrick and pantry co-director Laura Leale to pick up their boxes and any other pantry items they needed. This program was greatly appreciated by our senior neighbors who received super-fresh, local farm produce for their meals. The seasonal program ended in October 2025.



The Community Farmhouse, housing the Greater Franklin Food Pantry

Teachers' Snack Cupboards

Last fall, a pilot program began to distribute one-time funds to Franklin Central School District (FCSD) to reimburse teachers who were providing snacks for their classrooms' snack cupboards. Teachers gave positive feedback, and this year we refunded the program.

Backpack Program

In 2022, the pantry supported FCSD's Backpack Program, which sends students home with snacks and easy-to-prepare boxed meals every weekend. This September, steering committee member Emily Taggart let us know that the program is in jeopardy due to limited funds. In addition to pantry funding, the school is pursuing grants and donations to reach the \$7,225 needed for the year. Teachers and staff identify students who qualify for the backpack program and could benefit from the extra help. This year, the goal is to assist a minimum of 25 students.

Holiday Boxes

The pantry provides holiday food boxes for neighbors in November, December, and March or April during the holiday seasons. The boxes contain everything needed to create a quality, filling, and delicious meal for their holiday table. This year, we are having neighbors pick up their boxes at the pantry. This will allow them to do their

See PANTRY, continued on Page 17

WEBSITE REBOOT

By Brian Brock

Our Town of Franklin's website leaves much to be desired. There is some useful information, though it can be hard to find. But some of it is simply wrong, such as listing planning board and zoning board of appeals members among the elected officials. And so much is missing.

For example, on the calendar of municipal meetings, the most recent listed is January 2nd of 2024. Nowhere are the dozens of local laws passed by the town board in recent decades listed. How can you follow these laws if you do not know they exist? A listing of local law can be found at franklinlocal.org under the Government tab. While updating the list, this newspaper discovered that our most recent local law,

2025-1 Escrow Accounts, might not be recorded by NY Department of State.

Who was responsible for choosing this web service?

Reportedly, the current company was hired back in 2020 based on a recommendation from an official of a town where one of our board members has a vacation home. At the time, our board consulted no Franklin residents, not even those working in IT. The company, Catalis of Alpharetta GA, USA and Edmonton, AB Canada, has over 600 employees and revenues of \$129 million. Its contract with Franklin was insignificant. Recently, Catalis upped the rate for renewal to \$3,500, which brought dissatisfaction to a head with the lack of service.

So this time, our board decided to hire a small local company, but not local to Franklin. At the end of September, two members

of the board and other officials interviewed Deidra Hill, owner of Delco Creative in Stamford NY, and were favorably impressed. Treadwell residents were invited to attend, but no one from the rest of the town. On the website, there is a page dedicated to the hamlet, but it has been little used.

On their website, Delco advertises services for apparel embroidery, laser engraving, print media, website development, logo design, and screen printing. It posts: "At Delco Creative, every website we design and develop is fully customized to reflect your unique goals and needs. Whether aligning with an existing brand or building a new one from the ground up, we create a digital presence that authentically represents your business or organization. From pet services and agriculture to contracting, children's products, municipalities, and more, we specialize in

See REBOOT, continued on Page 15

VILLAGE BOARD BEAT

By Hanna VanDeusen and Connie Martin

On behalf of the village board, we hope you have had a great summer and are enjoying the beautiful fall weather!

Update -- Yard Waste Dump

Fall is officially here and the leaves are falling. With that, we have an update on the yard waste dump. In addition to installed cameras, the village has installed a coded lock box for the gate key at the dump entrance. Village residents may request the code by calling the village clerk at 607-829-6776 or emailing clerk@villageoffranklinny.us or dpw@villageoffranklinny.us. The code will change periodically to ensure that the dump is used only by village residents. Lawn tractors may still use the smaller path to access the yard waste dump. The dump is used only for grass cuttings, leaves and branches under 3 inches in diameter. Please do not leave yard waste at the gate. Garbage is not permitted to be left, either in or outside the dump. These steps were taken to ensure continued authorized use of the area. We appreciate everyone's understanding.

New Village Website Address

Please note that the village's new website address is villageoffranklinny.gov

New Mass Communication System

As an important component of our upcoming Emergency Action Plan, the village has partnered with ReGroup to establish a method of communicating crucial information to residents. These messages can range from sidewalk and water main repair notices to more serious emergency updates. The system is live, and you can



sign up and select your preferred method of contact: telephone call, text message, email message or an alert through the ReGroup mobile app. We encourage community members to sign up by visiting https://embeds.regroucloud.com/orgs/villageoffranklinny/signup_embed

Or, you may use your phone to scan the code below to sign up.

[See QR Code at bottom right.]

Thank You

Spring Picnic. The weather didn't dampen our spirits at the first annual Spring Community Picnic. Thank you to all neighbors and community organizations who attended. A huge thanks to the Franklin Fire Department for providing the space and all of their help! We are looking forward to another picnic next Spring, hopefully with better weather.

Recreation Commission



See VILLAGE, continued on Page 14

XMAS TREES ON MAIN!

By Amber Gray

For many years, the holiday season in Franklin has included Christmas trees along Main Street, provided by the Franklin Rotary Club. The club temporarily installs a 2 to 4-foot evergreen tree in the front yards along Main Street and decorates them with lights each holiday season. This display creates a colorful lighted corridor through our little village, greeting locals and travelers as they make their way through Franklin.

It's time for our annual request - we are seeking your help to continue the tradition of making Franklin's Main Street bright.

Sign Up

If your home or business is on Main Street, Franklin, and you would like a tree placed along Main Street on your property, please let us know by Saturday, November 15, 2025. To sign up, please keep an eye out for letters which Rotary members will be distributing along Main Street at the beginning of November. Send us a message on Facebook, or contact a member.

Donate

We depend on donations to purchase the trees and supplies. Any surplus donations to the Christmas Tree Project help fund two Rotary youth development projects: the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a four-day mentoring and training conference at SUCO, and the Rotary Youth Exchange Program (RYE), which provides the opportunity for

high school students to spend a year abroad. Both programs are life-changing experiences and help our youth become tomorrow's leaders. In 2024-25, we welcomed Terry, an inbound Taiwanese student who studied right here in Franklin.

ANY amount, great or small, is appreciated. While we only light up Main Street, we welcome donations from everyone on every street, in Franklin or outside town limits who enjoys the holiday cheer of driving through Franklin during December and/or supporting youth.

Checks made out to Franklin Rotary Club can be mailed to P.O. Box 178, Franklin, NY 13775. Or you can donate online via PayPal at <https://bit.ly/3x2ZRAJ>, or contact any current club member. Rotary provides a lighted tree, extension cord, and timer.

Volunteer

Rotary members are grateful for the help of individuals and fellow community groups during tree installation and removal. This year, we will be putting trees up on Saturday, December 6th, and removing them on Saturday, January 10th. If you would like to help, please let us know - or just meet us at the Open Doors Methodist Church!

Thank you to the many individuals who have previously volunteered, including Franklin Central School District FFA, Trap Club, and Honor Society, and friends from St. Paul's Episcopal.

Thank you for helping our community volunteer efforts all year round!



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Franklin Rotary and FIS members show off the new shed

A VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP

By Amber Gray

Franklin Rotary and the Franklin Improvement Society (FIS) have partnered to install a quality storage shed in the Franklin Village Memorial Park and Edible Walking Trail. FIS members approached Rotary and requested support in spring of 2025, which developed into Rotary applying for and receiving CNY Rotary District grant funds in September. Rotary also donated funds from its own fundraising efforts to support the project. FIS was further supported by funds from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, proceeds from the FIS Plants, Etc. sale and community donations.

Members from both Rotary and FIS worked closely together throughout the project, from choosing the site and shed to coordinating logistics and grant reporting. The shed was delivered successfully on September 30, just in time for winter storage of Main Street benches and flower barrel materials. The shed will be used to store items used for various community projects, including the park and edible trail, holiday decor and Main Street Christmas Tree Project supplies, and more. It is a modest, but important, part of supporting the work that Franklin volunteers do year-round.

Rotary and FIS owe their gratitude to the Village of Franklin for granting permission to install the much-needed shed on village property, to the Town of Franklin for generously donating time, machinery, and stone to level the site and create a site pad, to Mara Zehentner at Heritage Structures of Oneonta for her thorough and friendly assistance in purchasing the shed, and to the granting organizations for seeing the value in this community project.

Most of all, we thank the Franklin community that is full of generous, thoughtful, and service-minded individuals and the many volunteers across Franklin organizations.

If you would like to support Franklin Rotary's community service efforts, donations are always welcome via check or PayPal:

Checks may be mailed to: Franklin Rotary, PO Box 178, Franklin, NY 13775

Via PayPal: <https://bit.ly/3x2ZRAJ>

Become a member! Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Methodist Church, corner of Main and Water Street.

Franklin Improvement Society is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. If you would like to support its community service efforts, donations are welcome via check:

Checks may be mailed to: Franklin Improvement Society, PO Box 166, Franklin, NY 13775

Become a member! Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in Village Hall.

The Franklin Memorial Park and Edible Walking Trail is located at 380 Main Street, Franklin, and is open dawn to dusk year-round. Street parking is available on Main Street.

If you have any questions about this or other Rotary and FIS projects, please contact: franklinrotary7170@gmail.com or a member of either organization.

TAKING STOCK

Autumn finds me taking stock of the gardening year. There are always successes and failures. This year's months of constant rain followed by months with almost no rain resulted in the loss of a weeping larch tree due to flooding and several perennials due to drought, an odd mix of circumstances. Most plants survived it all.

One of the big stars of my summer garden was *Hydrangea paniculata*. I have three 'Lime Light' hydrangeas, plus 'Quick Fire' and 'Pink Diamond.' I prune the plants severely in late winter, which gives me fewer blooms of greater size. We had a big family gathering at our place in early August, and I was thankful to have these large shrubs to serve as focal points at a time when most other plants were not at their best.

Another success was the planting of several annuals into the garden. I planted yellow, red, and orange dwarf zinnias from Gretna Gardens along the driveway edge, in front of gold black-eyed Susans and taller grasses. They bloomed all summer on not much water. I grew orange Sulphur Cosmos from seed this year and planted them all through my row of daylilies. These tall annuals didn't start blooming until September but now they are stunning. I hope to save seed and get the plants in the ground earlier next year.

We planted eight swamp white oaks (*Quercus bicolor*) along the road this spring. These survived the summer drought, because they were young 'whips' from Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation. Planting one-year-old trees allows you to plant in larger quantities, and they become established more quickly than a larger tree.

Last winter we had a

GREEN BANKS GARDENING



With
Deborah Banks

dead spruce tree removed from the front yard, a definite failure. That garden has always been shady and moist, until the loss of this massive tree. I expected the shrubs and perennials in the area to suffer this year, but I didn't have the time to relocate them. Up until August, the plants showed no signs of stress. Many plants that prefer shade will forgive a lot if the soil is moist. However, then the rains stopped. Three months later with little rain and very infrequent watering, two clumps of large-leaved hosta and a colony of ferns all look fried, with browning leaves. Most everything else has been less affected. The bed includes *Ligularia*, *Rodgersia*, *Clethra*, *Hydrangea 'Annabelle'*, *Primula japonica*, and *Chelone* (turtlehead). They are surviving despite my inaction.

A big change in the garden this year was our decision to have a pond dug in the field directly south of the house. This put my red and yellow berm gardens right in the path of the bulldozer. I launched a mission to save what I could, with a lot of help. We moved a few small trees and shrubs and many perennials and daffodil bulbs. The vegetable garden is now bordered at one end by a long bed of daylilies and daffodils, taken from the berms. The vegetable garden also has a holding bed jammed full of other perennials, waiting for their permanent homes. In addition, many daylilies, grasses, and perennials were dug by neighbors and friends to be planted in other gardens.

When the bulldozer finally came for the pond dig, a few unclaimed day-

lilies and clumps of zebra grass went under the blade, along with a couple of nine-barks that were deemed too big to move and a few hundred daffodil bulbs. Nearly everything else was saved. I count this "big dig" as a success. I kept the relocated plants watered during the dry months and they are looking good. In spring daffodils will bloom in unexpected places.

The actual digging of the pond was completed in mid-September. The steep clay banks are longer and taller than I envisioned, stretching around three sides of the pond to allow for greater pond depth. They cut the pond off from most of the yard. We have very little "shoreline" and not much space for wetland plants. The steep slopes cry out for grasses and native plants. So far, we have added a few native plants along the western pond bank, including big bluestem and little bluestem grasses, hyssop, and eastern sand cherry. We are ordering seed of native wildflowers and grasses to scatter in early spring.

Reviewing the gardening year allows me to reflect and plan. My garden weathered some big changes this year. Next year I plan to relocate some plants from the sunny front yard and from my 'holding' bed. I will have the fun of planning our pond garden. Meanwhile, in early October, the new pond has partially filled, thanks to the one big rain we have had since the digging. Despite its red muddy water, we are enthralled. In time, it will be a lovely addition to the garden.

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SHEET PAN MEALS

If you follow food blogs or cooking magazines, you may have noticed that sheet pan meals have become popular. While people have been using this approach since the mid-1800's, it is a type of preparation that goes in and out of fashion, depending on the times. There are a few things that sheet pan meals have in common. The meal is baked in a hot oven at 400 degrees on a rimmed baking sheet. A marinade or sauce is combined with the other ingredients to give the meal flavor. This approach can be used with beef, pork, chicken, fish, shrimp, tofu, and vegetables. Ethnic flavors such as Italian, Asian, or Middle Eastern depend on the seasonings from the marinade.

There are benefits to making sheet pan meals in crazy times, like those we are living through now. To cut down on costs, during a period of inflation, you can decrease the amount of protein which is expensive, and use cheaper

vegetables or legumes. Asian sheet pan meals can be served with rice, while Italian flavored dishes go well with pasta or bread.

One of the big advantages of making sheet pan meals is they are easy to prepare. All you do is wash and cut up the vegetables and the protein you are using and mix it with the marinade. Spread the mixture on a rimmed baking sheet and bake. Of course, be mindful of how long the ingredients take to cook. For instance, if you are using cut up potatoes with fish, you'll want to give the spuds a 20-30-minute head start before adding the fish. I recently made a sheet pan meal with shrimp, bok choy, and long beans in an Asian marinade. It was baked in ten minutes. If you use ingredients like potatoes, squash or chicken, baking time will be between 30 and 40 minutes.

Once the meal is finished, the clean-up can be easy. Line the baking sheet with either parchment or foil and presto, remove the lining and no scrubbing is needed.

Shrimp with Bok Choy and String Beans
(based on <https://www.thechunkychef.com/chili-garlic-sheet-pan-shrimp-with-baby-bok-choy/>)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees and either oil or line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment

Make the marinade by combining 2 Tbl. soy sauce, 2 Tbl. of chili garlic sauce, 1 tsp. honey, and 2 cloves of minced garlic. Toss it with one pound of peeled shrimp. Lay out the shrimp in a single layer on the pan.

Lay out ½ pound washed bok choy tipped and split lengthwise and a handful of string

beans on the same pan as the shrimp and sprinkle them with 2Tbl. of roasted sesame oil.

Bake for approximately 10 to 12 minutes or until the shrimp is opaque.

Greek Vegetable Medley

(based on <https://itdoesnttastelikechicken.com/easy-vegan-greek-sheet-pan-dinner/>)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees and a pre-prepare rimmed sheet pan.

In a small bowl, combine 2 Tbl. olive oil, juice of one lemon, 2 cloves of minced garlic, 1 Tbl. dried oregano, 1 tsp dried basil, 2 tsp. Dijon mustard, and pepper.

In a large bowl, combine slices of 1 zucchini, 1 bell pepper (red or yellow), 1 red onion, and 1 pint of halved cherry tomatoes. For protein, use either tofu or raw chicken cut into bite sized pieces. Mix in the marinade and spread on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 35-40 minutes until everything is cooked.

Place vegetables on a serving platter and sprinkle with ½ cup kalamata pitted olives, ½ cup crumbled feta, and minced parsley or another fresh herb. This can be served over rice or with pita bread.

Photos by Andy Bobrow



“Good Taste” for Residents of Delaware, Chenango & Otsego

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Alfie and Deanna celebrate their first vintage

DEAR NATIVE GRAPES

By Alfie Alcantara

‘dear native grapes’ is a small vineyard and winery devoted to America’s forgotten wine grapes. Based in Walton, NY, my wife Deanna Urciuoli and I are growing heritage grape varieties lost during Prohibition, as well as newer varieties suited to our changing climate.

Deanna grew up in Staten Island and I grew up in Mexico City. We met during college at NYU Film School and we both worked in the film industry for a few years. We always had a dream of starting a farm and small vineyard but didn’t quite know where and when that was going to happen. While living in Brooklyn, we fell in love with natural wine made with under-appreciated grape varieties. Eventually we began wondering about America’s own native grapes, which led us down a rabbit hole of research. We found that America had a blossoming wine industry in the 1800s which was largely based on native and hybrid varieties well-suited for the Northeastern climate. But most of that wine-growing knowledge was lost during Prohibition in the 1920s. We were immediately hooked and tasked ourselves with tracking down those varieties and giving them a renewed appreciation.

We saved up for a few years and found our place in the Catskills in 2019. This farmland had the perfect exposure, slope and acreage for planting a vineyard. We knew the winters could be very harsh, so we decided to plant the most ‘bulletproof’ varieties that we could find. We ended up planting five acres of vines in the summer of 2020 with the invaluable help of friends and family.

It’s been five years since we started ‘dear native grapes’ in the garage of our Walton home. In that time, Deanna and I got used to navigating a tight maze of fermenters, barrels and packaging material

that we stuffed into our small space, and somehow we were able to launch our little winery. Producing wine in the garage was a romantic idea, but we knew we had to scale up to grow our business. So, in 2023 we pooled our savings to pay for the construction of a pole barn that would one day house our production area as well as a tasting room to host visitors. Our dream came true in July of 2025 - we finally had the opportunity to open our new winery space.

We’ve always felt passionate about sharing the story of America’s wine grapes, and we believe folks might feel equally inspired to see these grapes actually growing and thriving at our site. It’s even more exciting to have visitors taste the unique and expressive wines that these grapes can produce. We hope that experience will inspire more ideas and conversations around the potential of American grape varieties.

The winery is situated at the top of our vineyard and is surrounded by the beautiful Catskill mountains. We hope it serves as a space for community building, inspiration, and relaxation in nature. We’ll also feature local food vendors and food pop-ups that showcase the culinary diversity of our region.

We feel like the past five years have flown by. We’ve been on the steepest learning curve we’ve ever experienced, constantly challenged by realities of rural



Deanna at Steve’s harvest

living and farming, and constantly humbled by Mother Nature. However, we feel so grateful each day to have the opportunity to pursue this project. It’s brought so much richness to our lives in terms of the community we’ve been able to foster around us. As our winery is finally open to visitors, we feel like another chapter has begun: one where we can finally start sharing the story of American grape varieties with a wider community. That’s our ultimate goal!

Our winery is located at: 17 Crawford Rd, Walton, NY 13856 and we are open every Saturday from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.



OLT PROTECTS MORE LAND IN BUTTERNUT VALLEY

STAFF REPORT

Thanks to a local conservation partnership, crucial watershed land in the Butternut Valley has been permanently protected. The Otsego Land Trust (OLT) and two private landowners, Rick O’Keefe and John Chanik, have completed a conservation easement to protect 19.5 acres of land for generations to come.

The privately-owned property was identified by Otsego Land Trust and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) as a priority for ecological restoration. It borders Cahoon Creek, an important tributary of Butternut Creek, and joins a larger network of protected lands that safeguard wetlands, farmland, forests, and scenic views in the Butternut Valley.

Landowners Rick O’Keefe and John Chanik were motivated by a vision to restore the property’s natural features. “We purchased this property to preserve viewsheds, wetlands, and wildlife habitat,” O’Keefe said. “Although it has federal and state wetlands, most of the hayfields were created by draining the wet areas. Our goal is to restore the property to its natural state by returning those hayfields to wetlands, as well as planting native trees and shrubs. The efforts also support storm water mitigation. We hope whoever owns this oasis in the future shares our love of the land and the natural beauty and diverse habitats it nurtures.”

“The Cahoon project is a model for how private land conservation can protect public investment in ecological restoration efforts,” said May Leinhart, Director of Land Protection at Otsego Land Trust. “The landowners and USC will transform this abandoned agricultural land back to wetlands, restoring the ecological function of the landscape. Wetlands are important in slowing storm water flow, filtering run-off, providing habitat, and sequestering carbon so that nearby communities and farms can flourish.”

Lydia Brinkley, USC Coordinator added: “In partnership with Otsego Land Trust, we’ve extended our focus to prioritize wildlife improvements within the Butternut Creek watershed. By bringing together partners, we address shared conservation goals that also align with the Chesapeake WILD Program Pillars.”

The conservation easement with Otsego Land Trust ensures that the property will not be subdivided or developed in the future. USC will be working with the owners to replant the property with trees and shrubs that support the wetland ecology. The project partnership was supported by a grant from the Chesapeake WILD Program.

Otsego Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the quality of life in the Upper Susquehanna region by protecting more than 12,000 acres of local fields, forests, and waters in perpetuity. To learn more about local conservation efforts go to [otsego-land-trust.org](https://www.otsego-land-trust.org) or follow Otsego Land Trust on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OtsegoLandTrust>).



Pole barn construction begins!

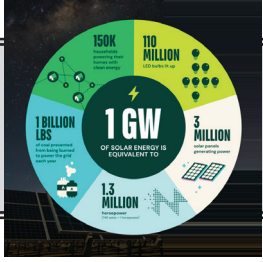
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FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

A WALK IN THE FOREST

By Jan Mulroy Photos by the author

“Many assets cited by local residents can be broadly grouped under the heading of natural resources: farmland, forests, clean water, beautiful landscapes and trees with large canopies.”

— 2006 Town of Franklin Comprehensive Plan

When was the last time that you walked in a forest? You probably noticed the fresh air, the sweet smell of the earth and at the very least heard bird song. Perhaps you saw butterflies fluttering about and wood frogs scattering for cover. Maybe you saw animal tracks in a patch of mud or saw their scat left in a prominent spot. Or maybe it was the time of year that the colors of the forest, so vibrant, just took your breath away.



Wood Frog

If you were in a forest up in the hills of Franklin, there is a fair chance that you heard water trickling and bubbling over rocks on its descent to the valley below. Perhaps you put your hand in the water and noticed how cold it was. The kind of coldness fishermen know is perfect for trout spawning.

Trees do that. Their canopy over a stream provides shade to the water, keeping it cold. The tree roots hold the soil from eroding during rainfall. The soil provides for a kind of saturation zone which keeps the rain from running off and keeps the

rain closest to where it falls. The soil also filters the rainwater as the water seeps in on its way to recharging the groundwater below.

Grown in a diversified way, trees have much to offer each other by way of exchanges from their roots through the soil. In addition, should one variety of tree suffer from pests, it's very likely that another variety supports beneficial insects that would keep those pests in check.

Besides forests giving us a delightful place to walk, from trees we get nuts and



Tom Turkey

fruits, we get heat, we get furniture and homes, we get fencing, oh and don't forget maple and birch syrups! Trees provide habitat and food for game we hunt, providing us with meat. And as mentioned above, cold water for spawning trout, as well as clean filtered groundwater.

Trees are a valuable resource. But they need our protection, including the most current sustainable best management practices. If trees are important to you, the next time you walk in the forest and hear the whisper of the wind through the leaves, listen. What you can do to preserve this valuable resource just might come to you.

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

— Nelson Henderson

FARM WEDDINGS, THEN AND NOW

Staff Update

Recently, the NFR heard again from Daniel Thaler, one-time resident of the Franklin Branch of The Farm, which was chronicled in interviews with Thomas and Mary Ellen Collier in our 2024 spring and summer issues.

Daniel sent us the following photos, and shared this lovely news:

“My niece has been living communally in Walton for a number of years at East Brook Farm. She was married there a few weeks ago and the family drove up for the wedding. The wedding was quite unique, to say the least. There had been major rain the night before and the stream was deeper than they had expected.



Rachael and Theresa, married in 2025



Daniel and Susan, married in 1978

“Afterwards my daughter, grandson, and I decided to take a detour and visit the old NY Farm property. They had never been there. There's only one structure remaining from the olden days. This house was built after I left and looks pretty darn good. The old barn is completely gone.

“I moved to Franklin in the summer of 1975, so it's been 50! years. Yikes! I just returned from another visit to the Tennessee Farm. I realized after going there last year that the founders are rapidly aging. Many are 80 and above. If I don't see them now, I might not get another chance.”



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Editor's Note: The NFR welcomes Stewart Hardison who will offer a regular feature on topics of sustainability and the people who work to protect our environment.

STEWARDS OF THE LAND

By Stewart Hardison

For those of us fortunate enough to live in Delaware County, it is not uncommon to hear friends comment on the pastoral beauty of the western Catskills – the patchwork of meadows, forest, and lovely streams and rivers. Wherever you go, it seems you are one bend away from a vista that will take you back to an earlier era. In truth, an earlier era would not be nearly as pleasing to the eye, or the soul, as the vistas of today.

Throughout our area, in banks, village offices, and libraries, one can see framed photos of local villages and towns circa late 1800's or early 1900's. Whenever distant hills appear in these photographs, they are almost always stripped of trees. What you see are barren hillsides and mountains – the only trees are those lining village streets or hugging a riverbank. A closer look at the hillsides reveals erosion or overgrazing, and if we could travel back to that time, the rivers and streams were more polluted and discolored. The fishing, often famed to be so much better in the old days, was likely not as good as what we enjoy today in the clean waters of the East and West Branch of the Delaware River.

Today, it's easy to take our pastoral landscape for granted, not realizing that the healthy ecosystems we enjoy are the result of decades of environmental stewardship. Some of the reforestation was naturally

occurring, resulting from the abandonment of farms and remote homesteads. But much of the reforestation we see resulted from human agency, beginning in the 1930s with the Civilian Conservation Corps. This federal effort was augmented over the decades by a host of state and private organizations that are mission driven to improve the health of our forests, streams, and farms. The list includes New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYC Watershed Commission, and Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC). Additionally, counties and many towns have land trusts that are dedicated to preserving farms and wild lands.

This environmental brain trust is deep, and we are all indebted to the scientists, engineers, biologists, enforcement officers and technicians who collectively work to give us the beautiful landscapes we enjoy. We need to get to know them better, and this column will try to make that possible, by featuring one or two of these stewards in each issue.

Connor Young: A Steward of the Land

Connor is an Agricultural Program Manager with the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC), duties chiefly with helping farmers practice best methods for controlling outputs, whether manure or fertilizers, into the watershed. Often, he tells me, this is as simple as keeping livestock out of streams,

with fencing and buffer areas designed and funded by his office. But sometimes it's more complicated and involves the engineering and construction of holding tanks and systems. Mission one, he tells me, is to safeguard surface-water quality while supporting the economic viability of agriculture and forestry in the region. Anyone who fishes, or canoes or kayaks our local rivers (including me) would have to agree that WAC is doing a pretty good job.

Connor's jurisdiction extends beyond Delaware county; and includes all NYC watershed lands west of the Hudson River. In total, WAC provides services to more than 230 farms and delivers consulting and funding to help them improve water quality and economic viability. Connor is proud that the programs WAC offers are 100% voluntary. "I meet people where they are," he tells me, and stresses that low-key patience is the path that works best for him. He has the results to show and estimates that 90% of the farms in the New York City watershed have a contract for services with his organization.

Connor, who is 38 and lives with his wife Kate in East Meredith, traces his interest in nature and the environment to growing up in rural Vermont, near Brattleboro, through his early teen years, and then in western Massachusetts, near Great Barrington. His family was early to the sustainability ethic. They grew some of their own food, kept chickens for eggs, cut all their



Connor Young and friends

firewood, and produced their own maple syrup. His first summer job was on a trail crew maintaining the nearby Appalachian Trail. For Connor, it was a dream job involving extended periods of work in the field, requiring the transport of necessary supplies and equipment for both trail building tasks and overnight camping.

Connor earned his B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, including a year at the University of Montana, Missoula through a Domestic Exchange program. After earning his BS, he received a Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law. These credentials serve him well in his current job, where he is tasked to write grants and review contracts and memorandum of under-

standing with the multiple parties that are typically involved in a WAC program.

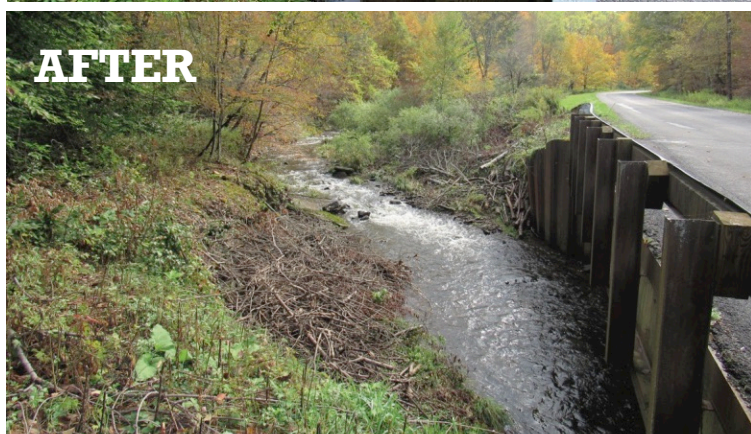
When not at work, Connor loves to wander the woods and fish headwater creeks for brook trout. He and his wife keep a large garden, and he has become passionate about agro-forestry, the practice of integrating wildland forest management with the cultivation of mushrooms, ginseng, and native nuts and fruit. Working with Italian scientists, he's exploring the raising of other edible and medicinal species found in the native ecosystems of the Catskills. Early results are promising, but it will be a few more years before they know if they are successful. Until then, it is all highly confidential. As Connor told me with a smile, stay tuned.

DIDJA HAFTA LEAVE SUCH A BIG MESS?

Staff Report

Numerous small trees were felled and left in the East Branch of Handsome Brook around the unnamed bridge downstream of the the intersection of East Handsome Brook and Leland Hull roads. Landowner and town councilman Dwight Bruno traced this felling to road work by Delaware County Department of Public Works, which is responsible for bridge maintenance.

A department crew has since returned to clean up. Such debris can impact streamflow by blocking bridge and culvert openings, leading to flooding.



Franklin Farmers' Market, Winter Edition

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November 2025 through April 2026**
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Corner of Main & Institute streets, Village of Franklin



INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

It's been a strange year in real estate. There have been some big dollar sales. A village home in Franklin sold for upwards of four hundred thousand dollars – unimaginable a few years ago. Homes in Delhi are even more pricey – and they're selling. The Octagon Farm in Hamden sold for nearly a million dollars after years on the market.

If you're a long-time resident, you might be surprised to learn that both Delhi and Hamden are now hot real estate markets. I know of one single village house in Delhi that sold around the half million-dollar mark without ever hitting the open market. Another very cute, very intensely decorated cottage with a minimal yard sold for well over the asking price after a bidding war.

But Franklin houses and properties that are what we'd usually consider "average" have sat, and sat for longer than normal this year. Local properties that either need work or have prices that don't seem in line with the market are still sitting, still available.

Industry publications say there's a nationwide real estate recession – a combination of interest rates, the economy, and overall uncertainty. The only people buying, they say, are the

wealthy – the ones who see an opportunity and grab it because none of those factors really affect them. That may not be the case with the high price sales in Delaware County, but it is definitely a trend across the country.

We continue to hear from buyers fleeing climate change, including snow birds who moved south and now want to come back because the weather in their new state is just too extreme.

But what's new is that the real estate market in some of those areas is in a slump as well. A seller who has moved to our area has cut the price on his spacious former home on a Florida golf course multiple times, and so far the only people interested are hoping to rent it and buy down the road.

The outlook seems better for the Catskills. Hamden and Delhi are hot markets. They have new businesses and new energy. Walton's trying, too. Andes is still hopping every weekend, and new businesses are sprinkling the main street.

What about Franklin? Everyone who visits loves it. They visit for the handful of antiques and décor shops, as well as our one restaurant. They love the Franklin Stage and Stagecoach Run Art Festival. But the village doesn't have space for anything more.

Burgin's garage has sold and nothing has opened there. The American Legion building opens once in a while for community gatherings. A couple of village homes on side streets

also have shops. Dawn's Deli building ended up being too expensive for our cafe/breakfast place to continue, despite their valiant efforts. It's for rent again, but the asking price rules out most tenants. The derelict building next to the post office and the empty half of the brick building that houses LAVA Interiors cannot accommodate year 'round tenants until repairs are done.

If you can buy, there have been a couple of opportunities. The long-abandoned dentist's home with carriage house next to King's (the old Hildebrandt building) went on the market, along with a house on Center and Water that is still an unfinished project.

We have buildings. But nothing is available or affordable for a startup business.

I've become aware of this because I've been looking for a space, too. I'd like to open a used book/vintage collectibles shop. So far, there's nowhere in the village that will work that's been affordable. Over the past few years, I've been approached by other people with ideas, from a grocery to a restaurant, but I've never been able to connect them with a reasonably priced space that would work in a good location. Oneonta's Main Street offers options for less than the rents I've been quoted in Franklin. That's a problem.

Franklin used to have a lot of businesses. And a variety of local businesses are always good for a community – both for the residents and the economy. But buildings burned or became residential. Now the options are very, very few – and some of those continue to be empty.

It really is a problem. And I hope it's one we can begin to solve.

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Down Home Fall Fest: A Resounding Success!

By Carol Ohmart-Behan

Photos by Mike Sellitti

On a perfect autumn afternoon—Sunday, October 5th—Sidney Center's picturesque Baker Street Park was the setting for the third annual Down Home Fall Fest, organized by The Uplift Collective—formerly the Sidney Center Improvement Group. The group's months of planning and the hard work of volunteers resulted in a festive homespun celebration of the season and small town life.

Family fun was central. Members of the Sidney High School's Art Club presided over activities that included pumpkin and face painting, a photo booth, bounce house, and yard games. Adding his entertaining pizzazz to the afternoon, Chee Chee the Clown (aka Chet Delameter from Hancock) magically produced colorful balloon creations that delighted kids and adults alike.

Once again, popular local musicians Randy Hulse and Ellen Harrington shared their musical talents with sing-along songs and toe-tapping tunes. Under the big tent, an impressive display of raffle baskets and gift certificates—generously donated by area businesses and residents—drew a steady stream of hopefuls depositing their tickets into the respective cans. Appetizing concessions sustained all this fun with offerings of crock pot soups and chilis, hot dogs, bake sale items, sno-cones, and popcorn.

A special part of the day was the expanded presence of local historical groups sharing displays and informational handouts. These included Sidney Center's own Maywood Depot Historical Museum,



Sidney Historical and Unadilla Historical Associations with representatives Gerry Byrnes, Mike Wood, and Don Tuttle respectively. Displays were also provided by Delaware County Historical Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County, the Four County Library System Bookmobile, Rural Health Network's Volunteer Transportation Service, and the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

The Uplift Group would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2025 Fall Fest such a success. Apart from the satisfaction of offering such a wonderful community gathering, the proceeds will be used to aid regional children and families facing serious health crises. This will take the form of care packages, continuing community events, and environmental stewardship. Next up, the always-popular Holidays in the Hamlet, slated to take place at the Sidney Center Fire Station on December 6th.

Watch TUC's Facebook page for further details: www.facebook.com/TheUpliftNY



TREADWELL, continued from Page 1

In its 2025 revision of the engineering report, Cedarwood estimated the cost of replacing most of the water works at \$1.65 million. Annually the TWD has raised about \$23,000 from usage fees and property taxes, but this was increased to \$37K at the 2025 annual meeting. So, the needed rebuilding is beyond the resources of the 70 or so households. Typically, such infrastructure projects in rural areas are paid for mostly by grants and borrowed money. In recent years, there have been attempts to raise these funds, but with little success.

In 2022, TWD applied for a \$10K grant from the A. Lindsey and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation with a sign-off by our town supervisor. It was denied.

The American Rescue Plan Act (2021) provided federal State & Local Fiscal Relief Funds to governments at all levels to aid in recovery from the COVID pandemic. The town of Franklin received \$196K, half in spring 2021 and half in spring 2022. After more than a year of discussion, the town board made its first appropriation of \$80K to TWD at a special meeting in September 2023. This appropriation was for an engineering study, for replacing three lead service lines under County Highway 14, and renovating the chlorinator. The study of the system began promptly, and Cedarwood produced a report in May of 2024. It was almost two years later, July 2025, before the first of those lines was replaced. The chlorinator project remains on hold. Any funds not spent by December of 2026 must be returned.

In the spring of 2024, Congressman Marc Molinaro promised a grant of \$960K for TWD as one of his annual Community Project Funding (CPF) grants, covering 70% of the estimate cost at that time. Although listed in the 2024/25 budget, CP#3329, the budget was not passed that year. Instead, the federal government was funded by continuing resolutions. Then Molinaro lost his reelection before he could fulfill his commitment in the 2025/26 budget. Molinaro's grant died from bad timing.

The NYS Drinking Water State Revolving Fund aids financing of projects with loans. For those that qualify, loans are low-interest or no-interest. Annually, it does give a few grants in the Disadvantaged Community Program, aka Hardship Community. Since 1996, DWSRF has had reserves of over \$1.7 billion and annually loans a few hundred million dollars,

It's likely that a single grant will not fully finance the project. Cedarwood applied for DWSRF in the summer of 2024. In the evaluation of submissions by NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, TWD was not rated a Hardship Community and therefore was not eligible for a grant. What

is more, the project rated only 55 points, which is just below the 60 points necessary for a low interest loan.

However, it did qualify for a market-rate loan, one of only three projects in Delaware County along with villages of Delhi and Margaretville. But the Treadwell project did not make new congressman Josh Riley's list of CPF in the federal budget for fiscal year 2025/26. (That budget has yet to be passed.) There is only a narrow window in late winter to apply, well before any inquiries by Franklin. And typically, considerable lobbying is required to make the list of 15 projects for a congressional district. Our 19th Congressional District extends from Ithaca in the west to the Massachusetts border in the east, and from Cooperstown in the north to Monticello in the south. With a population of over 750,000 residents including the cities of Binghamton, Ithaca, Middletown, and Oneonta, competition is stiff.

There are other sources of infrastructure grants. In 2015, NYS passed the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. WIIA grants require annual appropriations in the budget, so funds available for projects vary from year to year. These grants may be used in conjunction with DWSRF loans.

The board applied to WIIA for a grant which could pay up to 70% of construction. Acting as the subcommittee for TWD are Dwight Bruno and Don Smith. The board was required to pass a resolution to borrow for the balance of the project. Unfortunately, Franklin was denied for the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Current estimate for the TWD project is \$1.65 million. Should Franklin be awarded a grant for \$1.00 million, a DWSRF loan of \$0.65 million would have to be paid off by the 70 users in the district. Annual payment of market-rate loan would be \$573, which is what the project qualified for in 2024/25. Cedarwood was unable to amend TWD's submission so that in this fiscal year, the hamlet cannot qualify for a no-interest loan, with a payment of \$317.

This year, the average water bill in the hamlet is about \$330. However, at the annual meeting of TWD, residents voted to double usage fees but leave the property tax unchanged. The resulting bill next year would be about \$490. Add to that the loan annual payment would total about \$1,060 at market rate or \$810 with no interest.

This year there is \$325 million in WIIA for drinking water and wastewater projects. At their September meeting, the town board passed the required bond resolution for \$2 million. Application for 2025/26 funding was submitted by deadline of September 12th, and the announcement of awards is expected early next year.



In memory of Lisbeth Firmin, 1949-2025

PAINTING HARLEM

By John O'Connor

The number one-nine subway crashes through the language barrier at 125th Street, heads north. Good white people leave the train like women and children from the Titanic. The brown and black wonder who you are, the painter, snapping the city in your camera, then spreading colors on your wall to bring back the moment. Last night you rode the train to my place. It stretched itself between stations like a brush's long strokes, light flooding suddenly from the overpass, the world opening and showing itself like a miracle; tenements, laundries, discount groceries, discount clothes, the Hudson and Central Harlem. People. Waiting for work. Waiting for home. Waiting for spare change and cheap wine and beer. Beyond the buildings, toward the river, Ulysses slept while the drums of Africa played around him. You can't paint it all. Nor put it all in a camera. Just a moment here and there. Like the one-nine opening its eyes at 125th Street and closing them before the next stop. In Soho the next morning you wake up and walk into your studio. In the street the trash truck inches out from the curb and makes room for the street cleaner. You hear their thunder and you pick up the brush and daub it in your pallet. You're alive. You remember the train. Where it stopped and where it didn't. Where that skinny woman in the ripped leggings panhandled in Spanish for her next fix. The train left the station and you watched the neon light up the sign post, blurring as the train went faster, moving through the dark tunnels, hurling toward the next station, the next birth of light.

CATS, continued from Page 13

namic by moving instruments and voices closer to the mic, as was done in the early days of recording. It works surprisingly well. Their performance at Oldtone was perfect. The addition of Nadine Landry as a singer and bassist has caused them to introduce cajun music to their repertoire and she sings it like she was born to it. (I'm fairly certain she was.)

For those fans of American traditional music, I recommend Oldtone, which occurs in Hillsdale, NY in September and the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, which I attended in July in Oakdale, on the eastern slope of the Catskills. The highlights this year were the Del McCoury Band, one of the longest-lived bluegrass bands in the country, Dry Branch Fire Squad, led by the imitable Ron Thomasan, and the fabulous Quebecois/Celtic trio, Cécilia, playing some of the most compelling and rhythmic music on the continent. Such a pleasure to have this world class music a few hours' drive away.

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BOOK REVIEW BY ALEXIS GREENE



BUCKEYE
By Patrick Ryan
Random House, 2025
\$30.00 448pp.

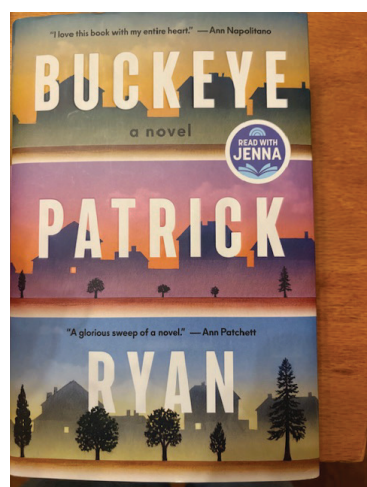
The buckeye is the state tree of Ohio, and its extensive and rich presence has led Ohio to be called the Buckeye State, a nickname that dates from the middle of the 19th century.

Buckeye, Patrick Ryan's engrossing new novel, is so-called partially because it takes place in Ohio, but the men and women and children of the novel live in a fictional small town called Bonhomie--the term for a feeling of friendliness and good nature, derived from the French words "bon homme"-- a good man.

As Ryan's novel gradually reveals, the town's name is somewhat ironic, for friendliness and good nature are not always present, either in the world at large or in the community of Bonhomie, where many townspeople know each other intimately. They marry each other and raise children together, take their children to the same school and shop in the same few stores. Or as Ryan writes early in the novel, "Bonhomie wasn't nearly so small

that everyone knew everyone else, but it was small enough that, sooner or later, most everyone felt as if they'd laid eyes on almost everyone else."

In the novel, there is an absence of bonhomie in the world at large. The characters' stories begin



during World War II and extend through the Korean War of the early 1950s and continue through the Vietnam War, which began in 1955 and ended in 1975.

The twentieth century's wars may be far away from Bonhomie, Ohio, but they impact the intimate lives of the men of the town who enlist, and the men and women who remain at home. Ryan's riveting narrative focuses on two Bonhomie families, particularly

the parentage of the Salts' son Tom. When Felix Salt is on his way home during World War II, a horrendous attack at sea destroys his ship, killing the man with whom he has fallen in love. Just before Felix arrives home, his wife, Margaret, has a brief but intense affair with married Bonhomie resident Cal Jenkins. The result of Margaret and Cal's passionate interlude is Tom, who will eventually be nicknamed Buckeye.

Ryan's novel draws us in slowly at first, but then increasingly involves us in the lives of these two families, as the Salts and the Jenkinsons and their children grow older and eventually discover the truths about their relationships. They grow older along with the town they live in, which expands. They grow older and experience both the drawbacks and the rewards of living in America toward the end of the 20th century, an experience shared by many a reader of this poignant novel.

For anyone interested in both the beauty and the difficulties of life in America's towns, *Buckeye* is an ideal read.

HOLDING ARTEMIS

The Roxbury Arts Center
5025 Vega Mountain Road
Roxbury, NY
Oct 18 - Dec 20, 2025
Tuesday to Saturday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Reviewed by Ursula Hudak

This show highlights the work of **Jody Isaacson**, delving deep into the forest and examining the interactions between humans in the wild. Her installation work and ceramic pieces present views of both the hunters and the hunted, the still moments in the forest, inspired by and embracing the ethos of Artemis. Her work stretches the perspective of the gallery, working within its confines to communicate much larger ideas. Her tall deer

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM, EARL OF DARTMOUTH, HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE OF NORTH-AMERICA, &C.

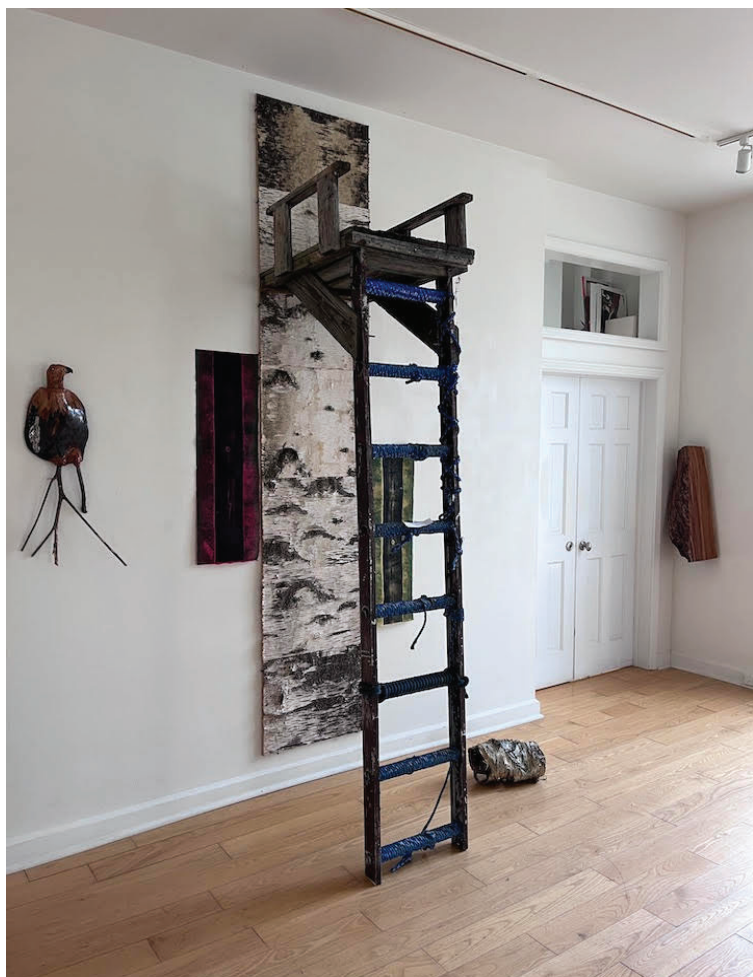
By Phyllis Wheatley


Hail, happy day, when, smiling like the morn,
Fair Freedom rose New-England to adorn:
The northern clime beneath her genial ray,
Dartmouth, congratulates thy blissful sway:
Elate with hope her race no longer mourns,
Each soul expands, each grateful bosom burns,
While in thine hand with pleasure we behold
The silken reins, and Freedom's charms unfold.

Phyllis Wheatley was born in Africa and brought to America on a slave ship in 1761. She was a servant for a wealthy Boston tailor and his wife and was given the tailor's last name.

She was the first black American woman poet (educated with the Wheatleys' other children). She learned English quickly and mastered Greek and Latin as well. She began writing poetry when she was thirteen and published her first book, *Poems on Various Subject, Religious and Moral*, in 1773. Her poems were used by abolitionists to promote education for all.

-- Bertha Rogers





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stand brings us to what can we see from on high in the cover of the branches, sheltered by her deer stand. What can you see at just above ground, caught in a glimpse of her mirroring pool tiles? And what lies in wait, waiting to be borne out from the leaves, or about to take flight?



L to R, Jody Isaacson and Ursula Hudak

CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR

Feminist Music of Latin America and Old Time Music in the Hudson Valley



I have been visiting Oaxaca de Juárez since 2019, usually for two or three months each year, and am always interested in finding music indigenous to the region. The most visible music in the city is the marimba bands and the *bandas*, ubiquitous brass ensembles that you can hear almost every day in the streets and plazas. Vocal music is rarer, much of it from the northern traditions of *tejano* and *mariachi*. As in most countries these days, contemporary popular music is a blend of many cultures.

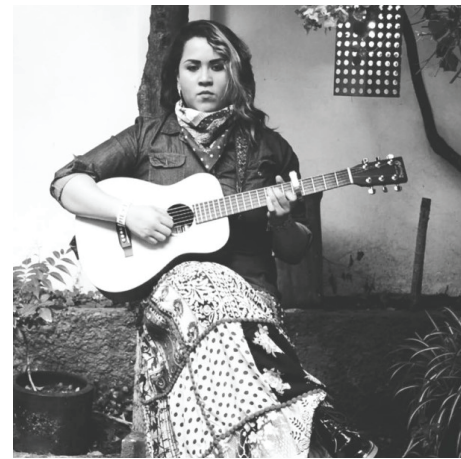
One musical movement that has caught on in Mexico comes from the recent rise and strengthening of *feminista*, a movement that exploded in Mexico City just before the pandemic. Much of its focus has been on the murders and disappearances of women (femicide) that have plagued Mexico, along with the government's failure to investigate the problem seriously.

While studying Spanish last May in Oaxaca, my teacher, Itan, and I talked about our mutual love for traditional music and she introduced me to a recording by a singer called Vivir Quintana, whose style is steeped in traditional melody. The song was "*Cancion sin*

miedo" or "Song without Fear". I was deeply moved, listening to Vivir singing, playing guitar and accompanied by a chorus of some thirty women. The song captures the strength and the rage of feminist activists whose movement has toppled politicians for their inaction. The lyrics are powerful and bolstered by the melody and relentless rhythm of the song. "May the State, the sky, the streets tremble/ may the judges and policemen be afraid," the song begins. "Nothing will shut me up anymore/ it's enough if you touch one of us, we all will answer" is another line. The song ascends into the repetition of victim names. "I'm Claudia, I'm Esther, and I'm Teresa/ I'm Ingrid, I'm Fabiola, and I'm Valeria/ I'm the girl that you took by force." I encourage readers to search for the performance of the song on YouTube. It's a knockout.

Upon returning from Mexico, I checked out the summer concert schedule at the West Kortright Center and was excited to find that the trio, La Muchacha y El Propio Junte were scheduled to play. This is the vehicle of the Colombian artist, Isabel Ramirez, who also carries the banner of feminist music from Latin America. My brother and I attended the concert in June and were both impressed

by Ramirez and her two side musicians, Camilo Bartelsman and Miguel Velazquez on percussion and bass. Ramirez's repertoire, like Quintana's, touched on violence against women, love and community, singing on subjects from protecting water in Colombia to the genocide of children in Gaza. The trio produced a full sound without blowing out the roof with decibels. Particularly impressive, aside from Isabel's dynamic singing, was Bartelsman's subtle handling of percussion. Ramirez says she was much influenced by her older brother, who is a rapper, and she



Vivir Quintana

gave us a couple of samples of her rap compositions toward the end of the concert. WKC is to be commended for bringing world music to Delaware County. Their programming has been extraordinary.

To top off the summer, I spent a couple of days in Hillsdale, NY, in the beautiful rolling hills of the Berkshires, attending Oldtone Roots Festival, whose chief feature is Appalachian string band music.

I was most excited about seeing and hearing two of my favorite traditional bands in the country, The Foghorn String Band and Tuba Skinny. The festival itself is quite small, which was a nice change from the multistage format of most folk festivals. There are only two stages at Oldtone, the main stage and the dance stage. There is also a tent with a small stage where master musicians talk about their instrument and techniques of old time styles.

I could listen to Tuba Skinny all day long. I discovered this New Orleans street band on YouTube some years ago. They play the traditional jazz that New Orleans is famous for. They tour internationally but still maintain a presence on the streets of NOLA. The bandleader is a cornet player named Shaye Cohn, who seems to play the instrument effortlessly. The band is so tight and hot that I defy anyone to keep their legs from wanting to get up and dance. Indeed, in the dance tent the floor was full, including some well practiced swing dancers. On the main stage Saturday night was Foghorn, who emerged with the new revival of old time music and the beginning of this century. I consider them the band that has inherited the mission of the New Lost City Ramblers, the revival band I grew up on in my late teens and early twenties. Foghorn's musicality has more finesse and verve and is less academic. They are known for doing recordings with one microphone and adjusting the dy-

See CATS, continued on Page 11



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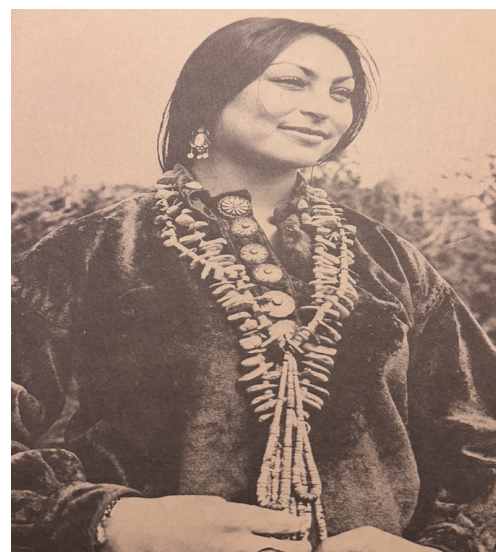
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VILLAGE, continued from Page 3

tion. We had stellar attendance at the Community Pool and Water Aerobics classes at capacity! Thanks to Pool Director Joanna Banks, Water Aerobics Instructor Linda Worden and our efficient team of lifeguards for keeping everyone safe while enjoying the pool. Kendall Beadle, Field Sports Director, coached T-Ball this spring and had quite a large team after spearheading fall sports and Winter Gym. Interest in field sports continues to grow – thank you, Kendall! Please see related article in this issue on Rec Commission activities and fundraising.

Old Franklin Day. We had a super-successful Old Franklin Day, with outstanding attendance, two great bands, delicious food, and 40 vendors. Thanks to our great community organizations, sponsors and volunteers for making it happen!

Memorial Park Storage Shed. A big thank you to Franklin Rotary Club, the Franklin Improvement Society, John Wilson, Kim Hyzer, Amber Gray, the Town of Franklin and others who made our new, state-of-the-art shed possible. Please see related article in this issue.

New and Ongoing Projects

Water Street Repair. The Village has sent the lower Water Street repair and regrading project out for bidding and we hope to have the work done in the near future. Residents impacted will be notified when we have more information. During the project duration and afterward, there will be no parking in the turnaround at the end of Water Street as it will need to remain clear for emergency access.

Water Main and Water Meters. We are continuing to research funding options to update the water main on Main Street and update water meters to more efficient models.

Key Dates and Reminders

Halloween, Friday, October 31st. This year, Halloween is celebrated on its actual date of October 31st. If you are participating, please turn your porch light on so trick or treaters know to stop by.

From November 1st to April 1st, NO OVERNIGHT PARKING ON VILLAGE STREETS. This ensures that snow can be cleared as needed. When there is significant snowfall, please avoid parking at any time to enable full plowing of streets.

Sidewalks must be kept clear of snow and ice. In line with our local law for snow removal, notices will be delivered to any property within the village if that property's sidewalks are not cleared. If you have an alternate method of contact, please email clerk@villageoffranklinny.us to provide an email address to send such notice.

Local leash law. Village law requires dogs to be on a leash if not tethered in your yard or in an enclosed area. This ensures safety for all residents and pets. Please be respectful of your neighbors and clean up and dispose of any dog feces appropriately.

All local laws are on the village website: villageoffranklinny.gov

Festive holiday trees on Main Street, first week of December. The Franklin Rotary Club will again be lining Main Street with festive trees. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact trusteeB@villageoffranklinny.us and the message will be sent to Rotary.

Franklin Christmas Stroll House Tour and Holiday Market, Saturday, December 13th. Please see related article in this issue for details.

Village board meetings are held at Village Hall, 141 Water Street, on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. A Zoom link is available upon request. **Rec Commission** meetings are held most months on the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

Mayor's office hours, Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall. Alternative meeting times can be arranged if Village residents have a concern.

Online payment of water or tax bills is available on village website: villageoffranklinny.gov

Contact Us

Mayor: Johanna (Hanna) VanDeusen
607-287-4986

mayor@villageoffranklinny.us

Clerk: Paula Niebanck
607-829-6776

clerk@villageoffranklinny.us

Trustees: Morgan McLean
trusteeA@villageoffranklinny.us

Constance Martin

trusteeB@villageoffranklinny.us

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STRONG COMMITMENT TO YOUR SECURITY

FRANKLIN CHRISTMAS STROLL 2025!

By Connie Martin

The village of Franklin invites you, your family and friends to celebrate the holidays with us! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13th for the day-long festivities.

Christmas Stroll House Tour

The traditional Christmas Stroll House Tour is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors, see homes beautifully decorated for the holidays, learn about the history of the homes and get ideas for renovations and décor! The Stroll will take place on Saturday, December 13th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Tickets will be sold at the Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 13th.

After expenses, proceeds from the Stroll House Tour will be donated to the Franklin Improvement Society, a 501(c)3 organization that contributes to a number of other Franklin community organizations.

We have eight fine houses lined up for the Stroll and are hoping to see you. Stroll host houses only need to decorate for Christmas and open their doors for main floor house tours during the 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. time frame. Homes may wish to offer light refreshments such as cookies and a beverage.

Don't Miss the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum

The popular Trees and Trains for Christmas exhibit at the museum is a must-see! Take a step back in time as you enjoy the beautifully decorated trees and The



Warwick dining car at the museum. There is a wealth of history about Franklin and surrounding towns in the area, and much more! The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shop Local at the Holiday Market

Ruth Snow, Jeneane Howard and Hanna VanDeusen are coordinating this year's Holiday Market, which will happen at the Franklin Firehouse garage at 351 Main Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many local area vendors will be on hand with holiday wares, home décor, handmade gifts, food and much more! Enjoy holiday music while you shop alongside family, friends and neighbors!

Church Happenings

No time for cookie baking? The Open Doors Methodist Church will have trays of beautifully decorated Christmas cookies ready for you at their annual sale. The Community Bible Church will have sing-

along carols and cocoa – all voices welcome! St. Paul's Episcopal Church will have seasonal music and a tour during part of the day. You won't want to miss the beautifully restored antique organ!

Franklin Eateries and Businesses Are Open

Enjoy a light breakfast or lunch at King's Café on Main Street. Full breakfast and lunch are available at The Tulip & The Rose Cafe, also on Main Street. The Tulip & the Rose will be open for dinner.

Jonesing for some wine and cheese?



Good Taste Epicurean Market and Liquor Store will have wine and gourmet cheese tastings throughout the day. Shop for an assortment of gourmet goodies to grace your holiday table while you taste!

Shop for designer clothing and antiques at Gary Graham 422 and Kabinett & Kammer. Home décor, art and antique treasures are also featured at LA VA Interiors. Head a couple of doors down Main Street for more great finds at Blue Farm Antiques. As you walk along Main Street, enjoy the lighted holiday trees decorated by Franklin Rotary Club members.

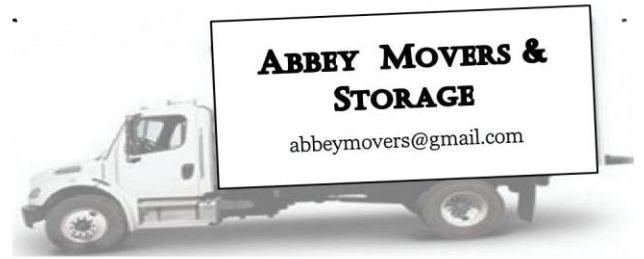
Visits from Santa and Tree Lighting in the Park

Santa is everywhere this year! The kiddos will meet him while enjoying Story Time at the Free Franklin Library and home baked goodies. Santa will also be on hand in Memorial Park for Franklin's first Tree Lighting in several years! After the tree is lit, bring your children to the Franklin Firehouse garage beginning at 6 p.m. for a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The jolly old elf and his better half will have a small gift for each child, and hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

If you have questions about the Christmas Stroll House Tour or other festivities around town, contact Connie Martin at candjmartin@fastmail.com. If you are a vendor interested in participating in the Holiday Market, contact Ruth Snow at snowy13775@hotmail.com or Jeneane Howard at franklinholidaymarket@gmail.com. Watch Facebook for updates as happenings take shape!



Mr. and Mrs. Claus visit the Franklin Free Library



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Holiday Market

Fire Department Garage
351 Main Street
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Trees and Trains for Christmas

Franklin Railroad and Community Museum
572 Main Street
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wine and Cheese Tastings

Good Taste Epicurean Market
438 Main Street

Cheese – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wine- noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.

Kings Café Festivities

375 Main Street
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seasonal Music

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
307 Main Street
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Story Time and Santa

Franklin Free Library
334 Main Street
11 a.m.

Christmas Cookie Sale

Open Doors Methodist Church
475 Main Street
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Carols and Cocoa

Community Bible Church
89 Center Street
2 p.m.

Christmas Stroll House Tour

Village and surrounding
\$10 single, \$15 per couple
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Tree Lighting in Memorial Park

Main Street across from Firehouse
5:30 p.m.

Meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Fire Department Garage
351 Main Street
6 p.m.

WEBSITE, continued from Page 3

crafting websites that elevate your marketing reach — regardless of your industry or audience. Hosting an annual event or celebrating a personal milestone? We'll ensure your site stands out with purpose and style. We offer both informational and e-commerce websites of all sizes. Let Delco Creative help you share your story through a compelling, professional, and user-friendly online experience."

Delco Creative displays ninety websites of its design including those for the New York towns of Bainbridge in Chenango Co, Stamford in Delaware Co, Oneonta in Otsego Co, and Prattsville in Schoharie Co.

If the company name is familiar, it could be because Delco Creative is the same company that designed the Town of Franklin seal in 2022, which it did by copying the line work from the seal of the Town of Colonie NY. At the time, Delco Creative did not respond to an inquiry about this duplication. At one time, the company displayed the seal of Franklin on its website, but that image has since been removed. However, the seal is still posted to their Facebook page for August 29, 2022.

At their October meeting, our board resolved to hire Delco Creative for \$2,500 to design a new website and \$259 yearly to maintain it. Subsequent revisions are to be billed at \$80/hr. Passage was by a minimum of three votes without the absent council members Bruno and Ross.

TENTATIVE TOWN TAXES '26

By Brian Brock

Tentative 2026 budget for town of Franklin would spend \$2.10 million. To partially finance this, our town board plans to raise \$1.46 M in taxes from landowners, an increase of \$0.042 M (2.90%) over the 2025 budget. As usual, board increased taxes to almost the maximum allowed under the state-imposed soft cap. Additionally, the board expects to receive \$0.42 M in revenue and would carry-over \$0.22 M from this year

Most of this increase of \$42.2 thousand would go for increasing salaries (PS or P/S codes) at \$20.6 K and benefits at \$19.2 K. The lion's share of that would go to employees of the highway department: \$15.4 K salaries and \$17.0 K benefits. In addition, the highway superintendent would receive an increase of \$3.0 K.

A half dozen of the elected and appointed officials would receive an increase of a few hundred dollars each. Largest increases would go to the assessor at \$600 rising to \$30.6 K and to the code enforcement officer at \$1,000 rising to \$16.0 K. CEO position last saw a raise a decade ago.

Total expenses (CE, C/E, or cont. exp. codes) increased only a few thou-

sand, but money would be shifted around. Largest changes would be in the highway department, such as a decrease for road maintenance of \$96.1 K.

With these adjustments, division of the 2026 budget would be similar to that of 2025. More than three quarters of the budget \$1.63 M (77.3%) would be spent by the highway department. (Not included are the salary and benefits of the superintendent.) General expenses would account for \$0.45 M (21.5%) of spending and the Treadwell light and water districts for \$0.03 M (1.2%).

Other than the property tax, largest revenues would be the estimated \$250 K from Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) grant from NYS Department of Transportation, \$67.0 K from rental for cellphone tower, \$25.0 K from NYS mortgage tax, and \$15.2 K of Aid and Incentive for Municipalities grant from NYS. Unlike most counties, Delaware does not share revenue from sales tax with towns and villages.

Projected expenses and revenues for the hamlet of Treadwell would be mostly unchanged from recent years. Expenditures for water district of \$23,000

would be paid by user fees of \$11,225 and a property tax levy of \$11,775. However, the hamlet residents voted to increase user fees by 50%, which is not accounted for. Unlike other towns, Franklin accounts for the light and water districts within the town budget even though funding comes only from residents of the hamlet.

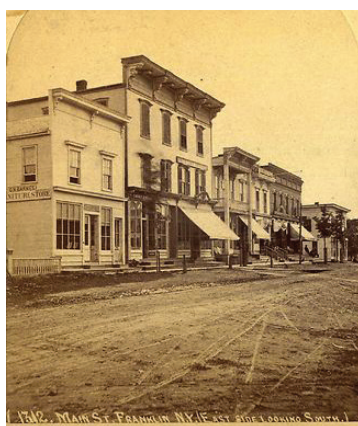
In 2026, should Franklin be awarded a WIIA grant for rebuilding the Treadwell water system and borrow for the remainder, repayment of that loan will be solely the responsibility of hamlet residents.

Cash reserves are good budgeting, but the right size is important because the larger the reserve, then the higher property taxes will be. With a budget of two million dollars, cash-on-hand in Franklin's bank accounts was almost a million dollars for a few years but then was cut by half in 2019. Since then, this cash cushion is being rebuilt.

At the annual budget workshop in October, no work was done by our town board. The tentative budget was summarily presented to the council, which then passed it with neither amendments nor even discussion. Thereby it became the preliminary budget. A public hearing on this preliminary Town of Franklin Budget 2026 is to be held Wednesday the 5th of November at 6 p.m. in the town hall, which is after the publication of this issue. As is tradition, the budget hearing is held after election day although this is not required by law.

Immediately after that hearing, the board may approve the preliminary budget either with or without revisions. While a budget does not have to be passed that evening, one should be approved by November 20th.

For full details, budget document should be available from the town clerk or the town website: <https://franklinelco-ny.gov/index.asp?SEC=ED608B3F-36DD-4B0B-8610-94E2E8CC0725>



RECREATION COMMISSION NOTES

By Connie Martin

The Franklin Community Pool had a terrific 2025 season, with approximately 75 to 100 attendees each week. About 60 to 70 youth took swimming lessons. About 40 persons signed up for water aerobics classes, with average attendance of 20 per class. Pool Director Joanna Banks said, "We are delighted with the response from the Franklin community and usage of the pool was enjoyed by children from neighboring towns like Unadilla, too. It's the only amenity of its kind for miles around."

Banks added that pool maintenance is a critical part of keeping the pool safe and usable for all. Work done this year included a filter globe leak repair, repainting of bathrooms and guard room, and purchase of new lounge chairs, bathroom sinks, life jackets, water aerobics supplies, and guard umbrellas, Banks said. Pool season has now ended, and the pool has been drained, cleaned and winterized.

To prepare for the 2026 season, Banks, Mayor Hanna VanDeusen and Superintendent of Public Works Jason Kingsbury have a priority list of maintenance and repair to-dos. A leak in the skimmer line pipe needs to be addressed. The bathhouse roof needs to be replaced, the pool deck concrete needs repair and the pavilion needs to be painted and stained. Lifesaving floats need to be purchased. Future needs include a new pool liner.

Field Sports Director Kendall Beadle also had a good year, with T-ball and other children's activities growing in popularity. Beadle is entering the fall and winter sports season and is planning winter gym activities. She is seeking coaches for T-ball and slow pitch and notes that there is heightened interest in adding soccer and expanding beyond T-ball to include baseball for older children.

Mayor VanDeusen said, "We're committed to continually improving and expanding our Recreation Commission activities, along with the maintenance and repair of our Community Pool. We have reached the point where more fundraising is needed, in addi-



The village pool

tion to the annual donation appeal letter to residents."

VanDeusen shared some upcoming fundraising initiatives:

Bagel Sales:

At press time, a bagel sale will have been completed, with order pickup scheduled for November 7th. Depending on response, at least one more bagel sale is planned where local residents can enjoy delicious fresh bagels for a good cause.

Gertrude Hawk Chocolates:

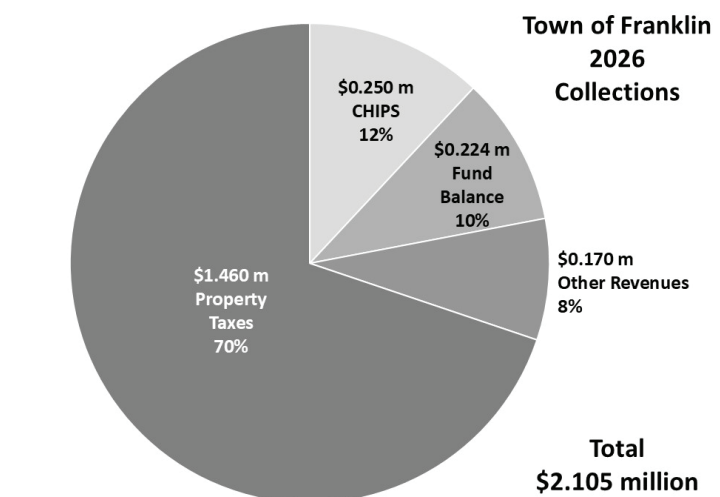
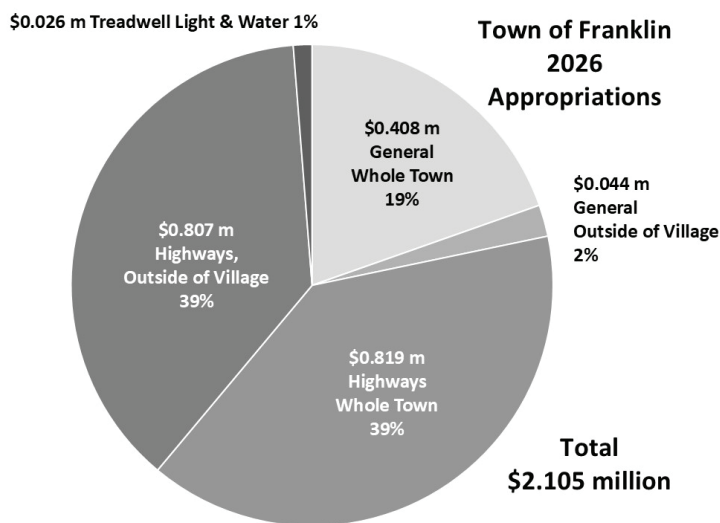
Get your chocolate fix right here in Franklin! Boxes and bars will be available for sale during the fall and in time for the Christmas and Valentine's Day holidays. Volunteers are needed to display order forms at their businesses and other individuals are needed to help sell chocolate at the monthly Farmers Markets and the annual Holiday Market.

Sponsor Program for Recreation Commission:

The program will be designed in three tiers with escalating advertising and promotion of sponsors at Silver, Gold or Platinum levels, ranging from \$100 to \$300. The village board will provide program details shortly on their Facebook page and directly to Franklin businesses and residents.

Interested in volunteering to help raise money for the Recreation Commission? Have a new fundraising idea?

Please email: mayor@villageoffranklinny.us or clerk@villageoffranklinny.us.



PANTRY, continued from Page 3

regular pantry shopping for the month at the same time. Holiday boxes typically include potatoes, peas, carrots, green beans, corn, stuffing mix, canned yams, turkey gravy, corn muffin mix, cake mix and frosting, brownie mix, canned cranberry sauce, pies, dinner rolls, apples, and a modest gift card so neighbors can select their preferred meat or main. This program has grown over the years, providing approximately 40 boxes per holiday to pantry neighbors and FCS and Head Start families.

Outdoor Pantry

An outdoor pantry project is in the works. It will be available 24/7 and stocked with appropriate foods and supplies provided by both the pantry and community members who wish to leave something for others. Franklin Rotary's Thomas Collier has generously offered his professional construction skills to create the perfect little pantry for us. Stay tuned, as siting and details are still to be determined.

Infrastructure

The pantry is grateful for the support of the Walter Rich Charitable Foundation which has provided a home in the Community Farmhouse since our move to the village. Recently, the Foundation, under John Campbell's guidance and direction, installed a standby generator that will ensure our refrigerated and frozen food items are not compromised during power outages. Support by the foundation and John and Kathy Campbell has ensured that every dollar donated to the pantry goes directly to supporting neighbors in need. We could not do what we do without their generosity.

Volunteers

Dedicated, caring, and kind volunteers are the heart of the Greater Franklin Food Pantry. Our volunteers are neighbors that understand putting food on the table is not always possible without a little help, and that no one should go hungry. Volunteers step up to help out and truly enjoy meeting and getting to know their fellow Franklin neighbors.

The pantry is guided by a steering committee which in June 2025 saw the incredible, fearless Meg Shivers step down from her role as director to focus on other priorities. Meg is an organizational magician who created many of the processes and procedures that we continue to use to run the pantry. Stepping up to fill the director role, previous steering committee members Laura Leale and Heidi Thide became co-directors, supported by Treasurer Naomi Lima, Secretary Amber Gray, website and marketing manager Helen McLean, and our newest member, school liaison Emily Taggart.

This year the pantry was proud to participate in the FCS Exhibition Night, the Memorial Day parade, the Village Community Picnic, and Old Franklin Day.

Support

The pantry is supported by Delaware Opportunities, Inc., providing guidance and no-cost food deliveries once a month. We are also supported by individual donations, organizations, and businesses. Food and personal care items are donated by the community. FCS, Beta Sigma Phi, Xi Delta Iota sorority, and Open Doors United Methodist Church host food drives for the pantry at various times throughout the year, helping stock the shelves with much-needed variety.

The Greater Franklin Food Pantry will continue to be here for our neighbors in need, expanding our programs, and doing what we can to fight food insecurity and hunger right here in our own little corner of the world.

The Greater Franklin Food Pantry is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is located in the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum's Farmhouse Community Center at 574 Main Street, Franklin. We are open to all Franklin and Treadwell residents who are in need of food.

To learn more about the pantry, donate, or sign up to volunteer: <https://greaterfranklinfoodpantry.org/>, call 607-389-1601, or message us on Facebook.

**ERNA MORGAN McREYNOLDS
1952 - 2025**

The New Franklin Register mourns the passing of a great lady and a generous and tireless supporter of local education and the arts, particularly in the town of Franklin.

There will be a gathering to celebrate Erna's life at Foothills Performing Arts Center in Oneonta. It will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 15th.

If you are unable to attend, the gathering will be available to stream live on the Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center Facebook page.



apparel & footwear

holiday gifts for all



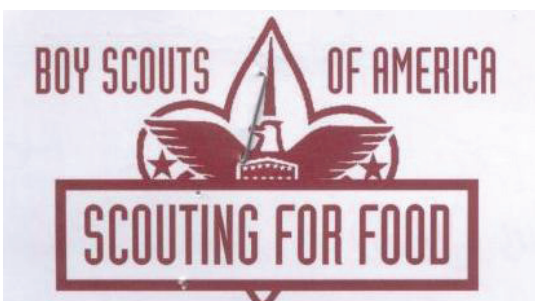
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w&th: 11-5
f&sa: 11-6
su: 10-4

holidays:
open every day,
dec 10-31

2 COURT ST, DELHI



@ninthofjunedelhi



ACCOUNTING, continued from Page 1

CPC claims that it would pay property taxes of over a hundred thousand dollars per mile of ROW, which stretches 9.4 miles across Franklin. About a fifth of this would be due to our town. However, what Franklin actually collects might be considerably less.

When asked to justify their estimate of tax revenue, CPC pointed to *The Economic Impact of Constitution Pipeline (2013)* by their consultant Center for Governmental Research in Rochester. In that report, Table 4 cited \$4.9 million in annual taxes for the 42.9 miles of ROW in Delaware County. However, there was nothing in the text to support this high estimate. There were no surveys of payments by other pipelines, no calculations from the value of the infrastructure, and no articles in media reporting on tax revenues received by towns. Whatever the initial payment, taxable value will decrease through depreciation, and utility companies have been known to sue or threaten to sue to reduce assessments.

a generating station with Marcy South lines there to transport the electricity.

Williams would divide the route into four or five spreads and for each, hire a crew of about 260. Most of the jobs require specialized skills but a few dozen workers could be hired locally. Of course, these 60 or so workers would be drawn from many surrounding towns, not just from Franklin.

In addition to labor, some material would be purchased locally. However, not much is sold in Franklin.

Worse still, everyone in our town will have to deal with equipment on the roads, including trucks delivering over 1,200 40' lengths of 30" steel pipe which weigh tons each. (The traffic plan uses State Highway 28 but not 357.) What is more, local roads are not built to carry such commercial traffic. In April of 2016, the company and town reached an agreement on road-use and repair. As part of that agreement, the company paid Town of Franklin \$56,175 to cover administrative, inspection, and professional

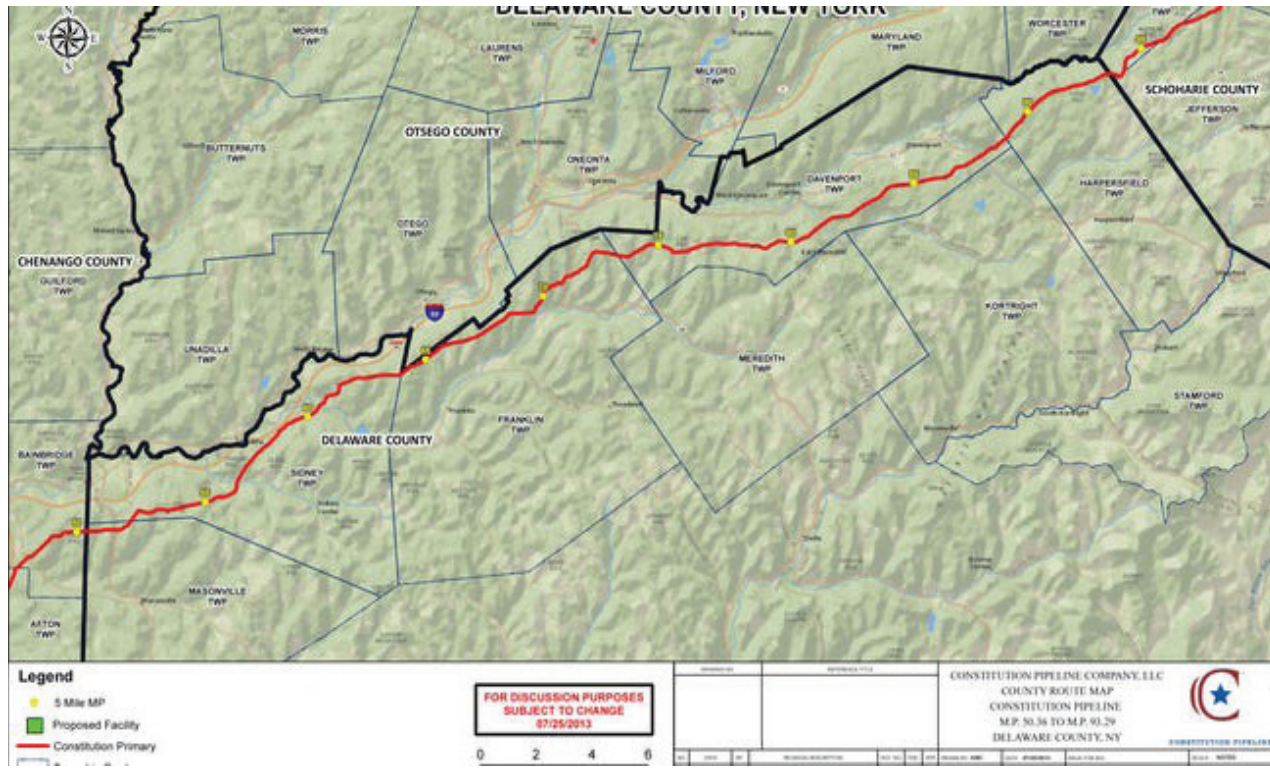
exhaust gets discharged outside. Compressing the gas heats huge volumes. Often banks of gas coolers are built outside, which have fans that run around the clock.

Typically, pipelines are built with only input and output compressors, but more compressors would move more gas. Neighbors strongly oppose building compressors, so companies deflect any discussion of the eventual addition of midstream compressor stations. Recently-built transport pipelines have almost all added midstream compressors. For example, there are plans for shipping more gas downstate on Iroquois, Millennium, and Transco pipelines, and all three projects include building or upgrading midstream compressor stations.

Unlike the ROW, eminent domain may not be used to obtain land for a compressor station, so the seller should get full market value. Otherwise, benefits to the surrounding community are small. Compressor stations in Dunbar, Hancock, Sheds, and Wright do not pay property taxes. Towns have no say in the matter because county Industrial Development Agencies buy the land and then lease it to the company. IDAs are tax exempt. Thereby, towns are forced to accept a payment in lieu of taxes.

On the Constitution Pipeline, the first midstream compressor station would likely be built in Franklin, as our town is midway along this pipeline. In uncharacteristic honesty, Kinder Morgan disclosed that its plans for the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline (along almost the same route as Constitution) included a compressor facility to be sited above the village. It would have included compressors, cooler fans, and a chemical treatment plant. As for Constitution, years ago their spokesman pushed back on the proposition that the company would build a midstream compressor station here. However, when pressed to state that one would not be built in Franklin, Stockman would only repeat the usual that there were currently no plans to build a compressor.

The benefit of a few jobs for the few months of construction and an uncertain amount of annual property tax are set against the many costs of the Constitution Pipeline (See report card in box at lower right). During the first attempt to permit pipeline, CPC proved to be deceitful. Should the pipeline become a reality, that company will be a presence in Franklin for decades. As the largest source of tax revenue, how would the company use its influence?



Later construction along the Constitution Pipeline might not be confined to the ROW. Land flanking the ROW is a potential industrial zone. CPC has yet to specify where the gas would go from the terminus in Wright. In Franklin, the pipeline would run along the ridge between Susquehanna River and Ouleout Creek. Development in the valley below could include

expenses. Once the company abandoned the project, CPC and Franklin terminated the agreement in April of 2020, but our town kept the money.

Pipelines rely on compressors to push the gas through. They are powered by gas turbines, which are essentially jet engines. The buildings have sound proofing that works moderately well to keep the deafening sound inside, but



Photos of the September 14, 2008 Williams Transco Pipeline explosion in Appomattox, Virginia.

The pipeline runs diagonally from lower left to upper right in the photograph at left.

Five people were injured, but none killed.



In a 'massive fireball,' two large homes were totally destroyed.



CONSTITUTION CHRONICLE

- 18 Feb.** Trump announces that Constitution Pipeline will be built, blindsiding Williams
- 14 Mar.** President Trump and Governor Hochul meet at White House to discuss "energy policy"
- 14 Apr.** Williams Companies, Inc. provisionally agrees to build Constitution Pipeline
- 18 May** After weekend phone calls, Trump and Hochul reach an agreement on energy policy
- 20 May** Williams reorganizes Constitution Pipeline Company LLC in New York, terminated in 2022
- 30 May** CPC files joint applications with USACE and NYSDEC under Clean Water Act
- 23 June** DEC denies CPC emergency approval within 25 days, instead by statutory deadline of 180 days
- 2 July** Dept. of Environment Conservation issues a Notification of Incomplete Application to CPC
- 12 Aug.** CPC files supplement to its applications for WQC, stream disturbance, and freshwater wetlands
- 26 Aug.** DEC issues a second Notification of Incomplete Application to CPC
- 15 Sept.** CPC repeats its rebuttal but includes three attachments which updated submissions.
- 10 Oct.** CPC updated fact sheet adds 10 miles to pipeline and delays completion until April 2028; estimates cost at \$915M.



NEWS FROM BAINBRIDGE

By Frances Ruth Harris

The Bainbridge Lions Club celebrates longevity and loyalty with a plaque awarded for outstanding service while Kevin Saroka (at left) wins the zero turn mower raffle.

Gary Richmond (at right) received the Bainbridge Lion of the Year Award. Richmond has served as president twice and sells Zero Turn Mower raffle tickets. This is the twenty-fifth year that Lion Gary has managed the sales of the raffle tickets. The proceeds from this raffle helps those in need whom the Bainbridge Lion Club serves.



The Newsletter of Franklin Local

Editorial Board

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

Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register

P.O. Box 258

Franklin, NY 13775

or by email: nfr@franklinlocal.org

What are we about?

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

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

We generally meet once a month, at 7 P.M. at the Franklin Free Library. The date is posted on our website. All are welcome, to offer questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas, to make things happen.

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

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

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

franklinlocal.org

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HEALTH, continued from Page 1

Yorkers. It's called the New York Health Act, which would provide comprehensive health care to all New York residents, regardless of ability to pay. The act would eliminate the need for private insurance, replacing that broken system with a "single payer" system in which the state of New York would cover health care for everyone in the state. The act is covered mainly by a graduated payroll tax, based on ability to pay, and would save the average New Yorker approximately \$2,800 a year, according to the RAND Corporation. It will cover all health care needs, including dental, vision and long-term care, eliminating premiums, deductibles, co-pays and out

of network charges. It will save New Yorkers about \$60 billion every year by ending paying for health insurance corporation bureaucracy, marking and profit; slashing provider administrative costs; and using its bargaining clout to bring down drug prices. Pharmaceuticals will be available at no out-of-pocket costs.

There has never been a time more urgent than now to pass this bill. A wide majority, according to several polls, supports a single payer system of health care, much like Canada now has. Call your state assembly member and senator and tell them to support the New York Health Act.

To get involved, write to John O'Connor at tojohnconnor@gmail.com.

LOST LOCAL LAW?

By Brian Brock

In 1964, New York State granted to villages, towns, cities, and counties the power to pass local laws by following Chapter 36-A Municipal Home Rule Law, Article 3 Procedure for Adoption, Section 27 Filing and Publication. Since then, the board of the Town of Franklin has seen fit to adopt over three dozen laws. Once they affirm the law by vote, the town clerk must add the certified text to the book of laws for Franklin and within 20 days of the vote file the text with NYS Department of State. Only then may the law come into effect.

The town website does not post a list of Franklin's laws. Townspeople cannot be expected to follow laws that they know nothing of. A complete list of the laws passed in Franklin during the last 20 years can be found on the website of Franklin Local <https://franklinlocal.org/local/franklin-ny-local-laws/>

However, the status of 2025-1, our most-recent local law, is uncertain because of confusion created by our state having an additional Town of Franklin. (This other is in the County of Franklin, which borders Canada.) The form to file texts of local laws (DOS-0239-a-f) does not have a space for town clerk to include the county, so staff at

DOS has to guess. Despite the submission form having been revised this February, this defect was not corrected, although another revision is being considered.

The New Franklin Register has discovered that our town is listed as having passed three local laws this year, but all of them were actually from the other Franklin. However, our local law 2025-1 is not listed for either town. The town attorney, Coughlin and Gerhart LLP, submitted the paperwork on July 16th. DOS responded with a letter on July 24th confirming that the law was duly filed. However, that letter did not state the title of the law, so we do not know which law was recorded. Untangling this is complicated by the town board switching attorneys since then.

DOS cautions that "it makes no representation or warranty as to the correctness or completeness of the information contained on or available through this website." Therefore, this newspaper contacted DOS to confirm that our law is in the official record. However, staff repeatedly sidestepped our questions and did not provide a copy of or link to Franklin (Delaware Co.) Local Law 2025-1 Es-crow Account on file.

REPORT CARD

Name: Constitution Pipeline Company

Grade	Subjects
B	Year of jobs for a few vs. road conflicts for all
C	Damaging local roads and repairing same
D	Ten miles of off-road highway across Franklin
D	Loss of control of property by landowner
C	Potential industrial corridor
A	Property taxes to town, value uncertain
D	Reduced market value of affected properties
D	Increase insurance premiums for landowners
C	Changes in groundwater flow
F	Compressor station
F	Williams in Franklin for decades

A - Excellent, B- Above average, C- Average, D - Below average, F- Poor

ADVERTISE IN YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER!

THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER

**CONTACT
MANETTE BERLINGER**

manette.berlinger@gmail.com



Five Star Subaru

wedosubaru.com

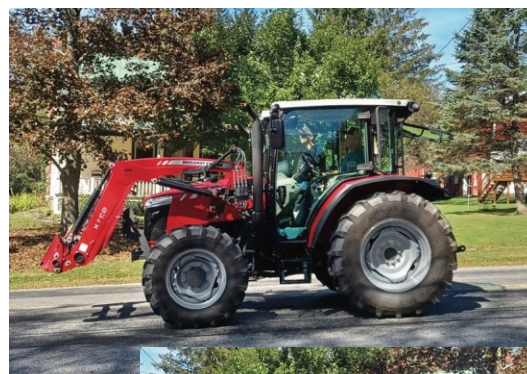
RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS.	SALE	SELLER	BUYER
04/25/25	Freer Hollow Rd (2)	10.32	Vac Rural Land <10ac	42,000	45,000	Balduini, Douglas R	Ramirez, Jorge
05/23/25	Blue School Rd	147.98	Forest, Part Exempt	230,000	276,000	Wallace, Michael S	(ES) Neill, Michael
06/03/25	1044 Oak Hill Rd	74.20	Rural Res	204,000	305,000	Bevilacqua Joint Revoc.	Zanardi, Louis
06/06/25	1390 Blue School Rd	12.58	Rural Res	152,000	309,900	Ferrante, Elena M	Nash, Jimmy (R)
07/14/25	6815 County Hwy 16	3.46	1 Family Res	155,000	338,000	Donato, Anthony A	MoxCo Properties LLC
07/15/25	12080 County Hwy 21	0.75	Office Bldg	114,000	230,000	Kuwjowski, Gregg	Galica Realty LLC
07/22/25	106 Church St	0.75	1 Family Res	78,000	190,000	Jamieson, Douglas	Retallick, Ilonka F
07/25/25	44 Heathen Hill Rd	8.80	1 Family Res	155,000	415,000	Ohman, David	Quinn, Brian
08/08/25	County Hwy 21 (3)	40.45	Forest w\Club	w/Walton	107,000	Meulli, Louis	Montilla, Nicaury
08/21/25	Ed Klug Rd	5.50	Vac Rural Land <10ac	11,000	40,000	Leva, Laura	Kapelonis, Alexandros
08/26/25	75 Water St	0.44	1 Family Res	136,000	245,000	Ash, Shannon M	Kot, Maureen M
08/27/25	249 Center St	0.51	1 Family Res	165,000	425,000	Lavalette, Megan McVay	Stewart, Rene Hajjar
08/28/25	8 Herklotz Rd	3.50	Rural Res (SC)	131,000	190,000	Osmanli Properties LLC	Boville Farms LLC
09/05/25	4650 County Hwy 14	1.77	1 Family Res	102,000	225,000	Scanlan-Yerly, Jessica M	Cumpston, Tyler Timothy
09/08/25	203 State Hwy 28	12.00	Rural Res	152,000	324,000	Cronk, John G	Fairchilds, Jessica

(#) # Parcels (SC) Sig. Change (ES) Estate Sale (R) Relative

THE SIDNEY CENTER TRACTOR PARADE SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

The tractor parade began in 2010 as an addition to the Old Home Day which had been celebrated in Sidney Center since the 1920s. Members of the Sidney Center Improvement Group (SCIG) organized the parade to add a dimension to the day's events. For many years, members of the Maywood Historical Group hosted the Old Home Day celebration.



Gotta love all those fine tractors, old and new!