

PIPELINE PAYDAY?
Constitution's Dodgy Economics

By Brian Brock

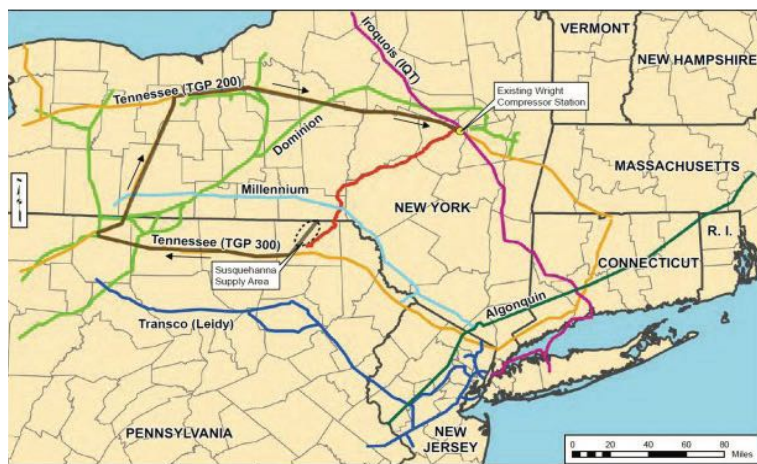
The Williams Companies, Inc. would first profit from building the Constitution Pipeline and then from shipping gas through it — but only if it can connect producers with consumers.

The company estimates that building this pipeline would cost \$915 million. Adding this to the \$354 million that was spent in the first attempt would bring the total cost to \$1.27 billion. When that project was cancelled, the partners in the first Constitution Pipeline Company wrote-off those hundreds of millions that they had invested. Williams itself lost \$145 million

and spent more to buy the remaining assets from the other three partners.

After such losses, pipeline companies are reluctant to finance construction projects themselves. The current funding model is for potential consumers to assume the burden with utility companies signing long-term contracts. Utilities borrow the money upfront and then add a surcharge to their customers' bills to repay those loans over 15 years. While connecting to the Constitution could provide consumers with gas, there is no guarantee that this gas would be cheaper.

Williams could make a comfortable profit building Constitution Pipeline, but the real cash cow would be decades of fees for shipping the gas through that pipeline. The initial capacity would be 650 million cubic feet per day. Its fee might be around \$3 per 1,000 cubic feet, which would gross \$2 million per day or \$700 million per year. Addition of midstream compressor stations could increase capacity as needed. How-
See PAYDAY, con't on Pg.9



Map by State Impact Pennsylvania

PLANNING FOR A PIPELINE

By Jan Mulroy

The pipeline that The Williams Companies, Inc. wants to build would, in part, run approximately 9.5 miles through the Town of Franklin. Once it's in the ground, there would be responsibilities and considerations for pipeline operators, affected landowners and nearby residents, local governments and planners, excavators and real estate agents.

In August 2007, the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) facilitated the establishment of the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA). The goal of PIPA is to reduce risks and improve the safety of affected communities and transmission pipelines through implementation of recommended practices related to risk-informed land use near transmission pipelines.

In 2010, after two years of work with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, PIPA published a report: *PIPA Partnering to Further Enhance Pipeline Safety In Communities Through Risk-Informed Land Use Planning Final Report of Recommended Practices*, November 2010 (<https://pstrust.org/docs/PIPA-Report-Final-20101117.pdf>).

Once in the ground, the pipeline would restrict land

See PIPELINE, con't on Page 9



THE ABCs OF VOTING
In New York State: Part 1

By Carla Nordstrom

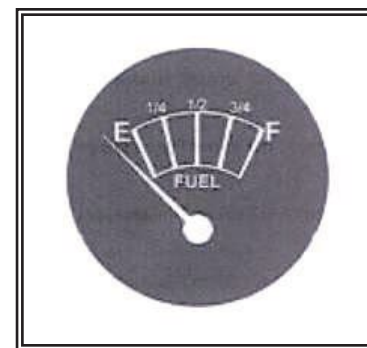
Many people in our country are worried because of talk about federalizing the 2026 election. One way to arm yourself against this challenge is with information about elections in the U.S. and most particularly here in New York State.

States were given the responsibility for overseeing Federal elections in the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 4, Clause 1. This

says, *“The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.”*

While this is a bit open ended for times like these, there was wisdom in our founding fathers for ascribing this responsibility to the states. After all, it is the state that knows how to best serve its voters.

See VOTE, con't on Pg. 15



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:

Bulletin Board	Pg. 2
Village Beat	Pg. 3
Kitchen Basics	Pg. 4
Green Banks Garden	Pg. 5
Inside Local Realty	Pg. 6
Real Property Sales	Pg.20

LOCAL NEWS:

Website Woes	Pg. 3
Franklin Memories	Pg. 3
Tax Take-backs	Pg. 4
RecCom Fundraising	Pg. 5
Treadwell Tribulations	Pg. 6
Uplift Update	Pg. 6
Permit Progress	Pg. 7
Fun-a-Day at the FFL	Pg.17

FOCUS ON ENERGY:

Potential Power Projects	Pg. 8
Megan's Maple Trees	Pg. 8
Constitution Chronicles	Pg. 9

SUSTAINABILITY:

Bittersweet Brewery	Pg. 10
Stewards of the Land	Pg. 11
OLT Job Posting	Pg. 11
Farmers' Market	Pg.16

LOCAL ARTS:

Book Reviews	Pg.12
Poet's Corner	Pg.12
Catskill Cats Music	Pg.13
Stagecoach Run	Pg.19



NEW VET IN TOWN!

Paws Claws Veterinary Hospital

By Susan Barnett

Allan Bregman, DVM, took the long way home, but he's back in the area and his veterinary practice is accepting new patients.

Dr. Bregman is a Delhi native who followed his dad and brother into veterinary medicine. He graduated from Delaware Academy, then went to SUNY Cobleskill, Cornell, Ross University, and North Carolina State University to complete his training. Upon graduation, Bregman and his family opened a practice in Brooklyn and in Long Island, which exclusively treated dogs and cats.

By 2019, Bregman said, "Our lease was running out

in Brooklyn, and the rent was going up from \$12,500 a month to \$22,000 a month. My dad and brother wanted to close the clinics and move the business to Florida, but my wife and I liked upstate New York better." Bregman and his wife sold their Long Island home, moved back to the family farm in Delhi, and enrolled their two children in Delaware Academy.

Bregman began doing per diem work for a number of local veterinary practices, but he was looking for his own location. He visited the former Franklin Family Medicine building on Route 21 a number of times, but just "couldn't see" how it could work for a veterinary hospital."

"The entrance was right in the middle of the build-
See PAWS, con't on Page 10

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



The Greater Franklin Food Pantry gratefully accepts both item and monetary donations.

Groceries

- Legumes
- Grains
- Nut Butters
- Jams & Jellies
- Canned Meats
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Fruits & Veg
- Juice
- Soups & Stews
- Boxed Meals
- Canned Tomatoes
- Pasta Sauces
- Crackers
- Pancake Mix
- Maple Syrup
- Baking Mixes
- Flour
- Sugar & Sweeteners
- Oils
- Baking Soda & Powder
- Herbs & Spices
- Snacks
- Eggs
- Frozen Meats, Veg, & Fruits

Personal Care

- Feminine Hygiene
- Oral Health
- Hair Care
- Body & Hand Soap
- Toilet Paper & Wipes
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Diapers

Household

- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- All-Purpose Cleaners

REMINDER:
Only Non-Expired Items

Don't Leave Donations
Outside

Open Fridays 2-4pm + Second Saturday of Each Month 10am-12pm
P.O. Box 209, 574 Main St, Franklin, NY 13775
greaterfranklinfoodpantry.org



ANNUAL BURN BAN IN EFFECT

Staff Report

Residential brush burning is banned statewide, starting March 16th and continuing for almost two months through Thursday May 14th.

Small cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires are allowed. However, these fires may not be left unattended. Before leaving, you must completely extinguish all fires until they are cold and wet.

Spring is wildfire season in New York state, after the snows of winter have melted and dead grasses have dried out, but before new grasses have grown up. Open burning is the single largest cause of wildfires in our state.

Since this ban was introduced in 2009, it has re-

duced these spring fires by almost half.

Wildfires endanger life and property and add needlessly to the work of our fire departments.

Violators of these open burning regulations are subject to criminal and civil enforcement actions, with a minimum fine of \$500 for a first offense.

For the rest of the year, the burning of brush and unpainted wood is allowed, but burning leaves, garbage, or treated wood is not. However, dry and windy weather might make open burning risky.

The Department of Environmental Conservation posts a map of fire danger ratings at:

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/wildfires/fire-danger-map>.

FREE RABIES CLINIC

Staff Report

The annual rabies clinic in Franklin will be held Monday, June 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Franklin Fire Hall, 351 Main Street. This free clinic is run by the Delaware County Department of Public Health. Pre-registration is recommended at <http://health.ny.gov/go2clinic>.

Pet owners are legally required to vaccinate all their dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets against rabies within four months of birth and again within a year after that, under Chapter 45 Public Health Law, Article 21, Title 4.

In addition, the law requires periodic booster shots every one or three years, depending on the vaccine. You must bring a record of any previous vaccinations to show that your pet is eligible for a follow-up injection.

Failure to vaccinate may result in a \$200 fine. Should your unvaccinated pet bite a person or animal, then it must be confined for observation for ten days. Boarding is at the owner's expense. Should your unvaccinated pet itself be bitten, then it must be either euthanized or vaccinated and then quarantined for six months.

By contrast, a vaccinated pet requires only a booster shot within five days of the attack and confinement at home. Once symptoms show, rabies is almost always fatal. Therefore, symptomatic animals are euthanized.

At the Franklin clinic, dogs must be on a leash and kept under control. Cats and ferrets should be in a carrying case. Of course, you are responsible for cleaning-up after your pets.

If you cannot make the Franklin clinic, then there are clinics in neighboring towns during the summer such as Walton on Monday, July 13th.

See <https://www.delco-ny.us/ph/disease-control/rabies/>

For more information: call 607-832-5200

2026 Town Board Meetings

The schedule of the meetings of Franklin Town Board in 2026 was presented at the December 2, 2025 Town Board meeting and revised in March 3, 2026.

Date	Day	Event	Time
Jan 6	Tuesday	Organization	6:00 PM
Feb 3	Tuesday		6:00 PM
Mar 3	Tuesday		6:00 PM
Apr 7	Tuesday		7:00 PM
May 5	Tuesday		7:00 PM
Jun 2	Tuesday		7:00 PM
Jul 7	Tuesday		7:00 PM
Aug 4	Tuesday		7:00 PM
Sep 1	Tuesday		7:00 PM
Oct 6	Tuesday	Budget Workshop	7:00 PM
Nov 4	Wednesday	Budget Hearing	6:00 PM
Dec 1	Tuesday		6:00 PM

Meetings in March, June, and September will be held at Treadwell Fire House. All other meetings will be held at Franklin Town Garage.



The number of households served has increased since the pantry opened in 2020.



The pantry was also able to support Franklin Central School students and teachers through the Backpack and Teachers' Snack Cupboard Programs.



Open Fridays 2-4pm + Second Saturday of Each Month 10am-12pm
P.O. Box 209, 574 Main St, Franklin, NY 13775
greaterfranklinfoodpantry.org



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



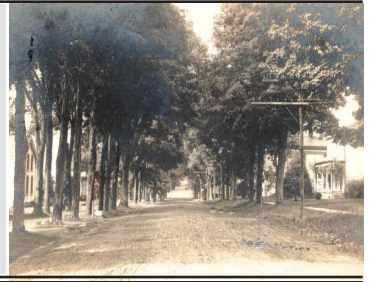
Franklin Local
Franklin Local homepage:
<https://franklinlocal.org>



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events

Local Issues
Local Concerns



HONORING OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT!

By Connie Martin

On January 2, 2025, the Franklin Fire Department acted immediately to extinguish a fire that occurred at a village residence at 41 Maple Street. The occupant and his dog were quickly rescued, and the fire was successfully brought under control. The owner is in temporary accommodations, and the building is currently unoccupied.

Mayor Hanna Van Deusen presented a certificate of recognition and appreciation to Fire Chief Tom Worden on Monday, February 24 to thank him and his crew for their timely response. "Under winter conditions, our firefighters' fast action prevented a potentially dangerous situation that could well have impacted additional homes in the area," Mayor VanDeusen noted. "Our Fire Department and EMS personnel are all volunteers, our unsung heroes who are dedicated to keeping our village, town, and surrounding area safe."



Town of Franklin homepage header

WEBSITE WOES

Staff Report

Last September, our town board hurriedly interviewed only a single candidate to design and build a new website. Then in October, despite the existence of talented and experienced digital professionals here in our own community, they voted to hire Delco Creative of Stamford, NY. This selection process was rushed because the contract with the current provider, Catalis of Alpharetta GA, would end in months, and the invoice for the next year of service included a considerable cost increase. What is more, there was general dissatisfaction with the service provided to our tiny town by that billion-dollar binational company.

Despite these efforts, when the contract with Catalis ended in Decem-

ber, there was no replacement ready. Instead, that company broke linkage to the home page so that attempts to access the site were greeted by the "error 404: The page cannot be found." It would be another month before even a notice was posted that work on a new site was in progress. For a day or so, the town even lost use of the ULR for its website, leaving only a For Sale sign. Web searches for Town of Franklin were yielding links to that other town in Franklin County.

When the new website was finally posted in late January, it was not a polished product but a beta-test version. The same photo was on top at every page, an Adobe Stock photo *Peak Fall Colors in New England* by Dené Miles. More puzzling, lower down on each page were silhouettes of famous European buildings. Some of the information was copied

See **WEBSITE**, continued on Page 14

SMALL TOWN, GLORIOUS MEMORIES

By Rose Slomowitz

Picture this: Friday night, arrival time 10 p.m., pitch black.

Me, begging: *Please drive down. Please let me see.*

My husband would give me the side-eye, sigh, and drive down the grassy hill, headlights on, so I could see the week's progress in our country garden. I never got tired of the excitement, and my practical husband never quite understood why this ritual couldn't wait until at least one cup of coffee the next morning.

This 10 p.m. routine was broken one evening before we even arrived home. Right before the turn onto our road, one of the neighbor's cows had escaped the barn. Yes—10



Rose and Rich's pond on Bissell Road

o'clock at night—Pete's cow was standing squarely in the road, totally unfazed by the intrusion of our vehicle brandishing its bright headlights. After waking the farmer to retrieve said cow, we looked at one another and said, "Well, that's not something you see in New York City."

I loved sitting on the deck on a sunny day when the quiet was broken by the

gentle hum of a hay combine making its way down our unpaved road. We'd look at each other—and you guessed it—we would say, "Well, that's not something you see in New York City."

These were the years of joy: my simple shadow, made elongated and slim by the midday sun, jaunty in my floppy hat. The hundreds of toads that came

See **SMALL**, con't on Page 16

VILLAGE BOARD BEAT

By Connie Martin, Village Board Trustee

Closing out 2025: Many residents of Franklin and surrounding communities came out to enjoy our holiday festivities on the second Saturday in December, including the Firehouse Holiday Market, the Christmas Stroll House Tour, the park tree lighting, visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, festive lighted trees from Franklin Rotary, and happenings at our local churches. Franklin had great publicity for its festivities in *The Daily Star's* special supplement. Thanks to all who participated to make these events happen, and everyone who supported them.

Important Reminder about Snow and Ice Removal: We are approaching the tail end of one of our coldest winters in recent years, but it's not over yet. Bouts of freezing weather with snow

and ice can still happen well into spring. Village of Franklin property owners and businesses are required to remove snow and ice promptly. If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please clear it of ice and snow for fire department accessibility. The snow removal law is on the village website villageoffranklinny.gov. We recommend using ice melt, sand or cat litter to keep village sidewalks safe. Snow and ice buildup creates a dangerous situation for all who use our sidewalks. Property owners also face liability in the event someone falls and is injured on their premises. Please remove snow and ice promptly to keep our village sidewalks

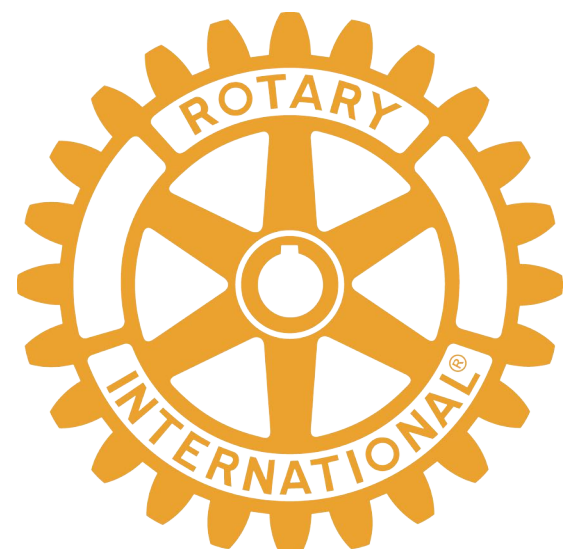
safe for all.

Thank You, Franklin Fire Department and EMS Heroes! During one of the most severe winters in recent years, our fire department and EMS personnel responded immediately to resolve fires and other emergency situations in Franklin and surrounding communities. Thank you for your dedication, community service and sacrifice for ensuring our safety and well-being every day.

Welcome New Village Employees! Emily Winchester is our new dog control officer, replacing Mark Bennett who has resigned to pursue other interests. Thank you, Mark, and welcome Emily! We also welcome Teri VanSaun as our new alternate school crossing guard.

ReGroup Communication Program: Over 75 village and town of Franklin residents have signed up to be notified about everything from extreme weather condi-

See **BEAT**, continued on Page 15



Franklin Rotary

Monthly Meetings at 6:30pm
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Open Doors Methodist, 475 Main St.
New Members Welcome

kitchen basics

with
Carla Nordstrom

YOU SAY POTATO, I SAY...

As winter comes to a close, local fresh vegetables are hard to come by. A regular in the produce aisle is potatoes. It is debatable that they are fresh since potatoes winter over but there is a lot you can do with them. Here are a few potato dishes that I enjoy at this time of year.

The first is based on a Mark Bittman recipe that helps brighten up a win-



Smashed potatoes and greens

ter meal. When I make this dish in the spring, I use dandelion leaves from my lawn. Alas, at this time of year, even the weeds lose to snow cover.

Smashed Potatoes with Greens

1 potato per person plus one – in winter, I use russets

1 handful of greens per person plus one: fresh arugula, spinach, or chard

2 cloves of minced garlic

3 Tbl. olive oil

Lots of ground pepper

2 Tbl. bread crumbs or panko

Preheat the oven to 450°. Wash 3 potatoes with skins on. Cut them up and place in a pot of cold water, bring to a boil and cook until fork tender, about 30 minutes. Remove the potatoes from the water with a slotted spoon (save the water) and put them into an oiled, oven proof serving

dish. Don't worry about excess water.

Mix in garlic, 2 Tbl. of oil, and black pepper with the potatoes and smash with a potato masher or fork until the garlic and oil are well combined, and potatoes are broken up but not smooth.

Bring the potato water back to a boil and add three handfuls of greens. Submerge them until wilted, pull them out of the water and add to the potatoes. Mix in the greens so they are evenly distributed. Brush the top with one Tbl. of oil and spread with bread crumbs. This part can be done ahead of time. When ready, bake at 450° for 20 minutes.

Sliced Potatoes Baked with Garlic Oil

1 potato per person plus one

Garlic oil (combine 2 cloves of minced garlic with ¼ cup olive oil)

Ground pepper

Preheat the oven to 400°.

Wash the potatoes and leave the skins on. Slice them very thin. I use a mandolin, but a potato peeler



Sliced potatoes with garlic oil

or the slicing side of a grater would work. Soak them briefly in cold water to get some of the starch out. Spoon them into a colander, shake a few times and dab excess water off with a paper towel.

Spread olive oil on bottom of a shallow baking pan. Spread a single layer of potato slices, brush with garlic oil and sprinkle with pepper. Continue layering and bake for about an hour.

Potatoes with Ramps

One of the first edible greens that will come up once the snow is gone is ramps or wild leeks. In city farmers' markets, they are a delicacy that sell for a high price, but there are larger patches growing in the hills around Franklin.

When foraging for ramps, don't take them all, just thin out the patches. The reason for the high prices is over picking. I planted a clump in my backyard. I always make sure to leave some in the ground and they come back every year.

Many people use ramps to make pesto, or to sauté in olive oil with pasta, but one of my favorites is ramps with potatoes.

Cut potatoes into cubes and sauté in olive oil until they begin to brown. Throw in a handful of sliced ramps, using both the tender white bulbs and green leaves, and continue sautéing. Don't forget ground pepper. Potatoes love pepper!

Photos by Andy Bobrow

TAX TAKE-BACKS Part I, SCAR Hearings

By Brian Brock

Property taxes are a burden borne by landowners in Franklin to finance our town. While the size of the annual tax levy is set by the town board, the distribution of this burden depends on the assessed value of each property relative to the whole.

Assessing these values is crucial to a fair distribution of this burden. The real property tax system has multiple safeguards for landowners. Assessment rolls are revised annually. When released in the spring, copies are available for review online and at the clerk's office. Owners who think that their assessment is incorrect may meet with our assessor to review the facts.

If they can not come to an agreement, then the landowner may appeal to the Franklin Board of Assessment Review. It costs nothing, but you must file a RP-524 form. BAR is three town residents who are appointed by the Franklin board and meet once a year in late May. After hearing both sides, they may agree to reduce your assessment or keep it as assessed, but BAR may not raise it.

Should the landowner not be satisfied with this administrative review, their assessment can be reviewed by an outside party through the judicial system. Sim-

plest, quickest, and least expensive is the Small Claims Assessment Review by a hearing officer in Binghamton. This proceeding is limited to owners who occupy a one-, two-, or three-family residence that is used exclusively for residential purposes or who own a vacant lot that is not of sufficient size for such residences. While the fee of \$30 is nominal, any reduction does not provide for a refund of past over-payments. Applications for SCAR must be made within 30 days of filing the final assessment roll, typically in early July.

This process is simple, and owners may represent themselves. Otherwise, companies will represent a landowner for a fee such as half of the first year's reduction, if any. One such company has been soliciting landowners in Franklin through the mail, Aventine Properties LLC. This small downstate company is owned by James M. Burns, a former hedge-fund manager.

Headquartered in Huntington Station, Suffolk County, it has been around since 2003. It started doing business on Long Island, in Suffolk, and Nassau counties. From there, it expanded northward to Westchester County. Then it progressed farther north into neighboring Putnam and across the river into Rockland, and Orange counties. Recently it spread upstate, targeting landholders in the upper Hudson Valley (Columbia, Dutchess, Monroe) and west into

the Catskills (Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, Ulster). In the past few years, many Franklin landowners have received mailings from Aventine.

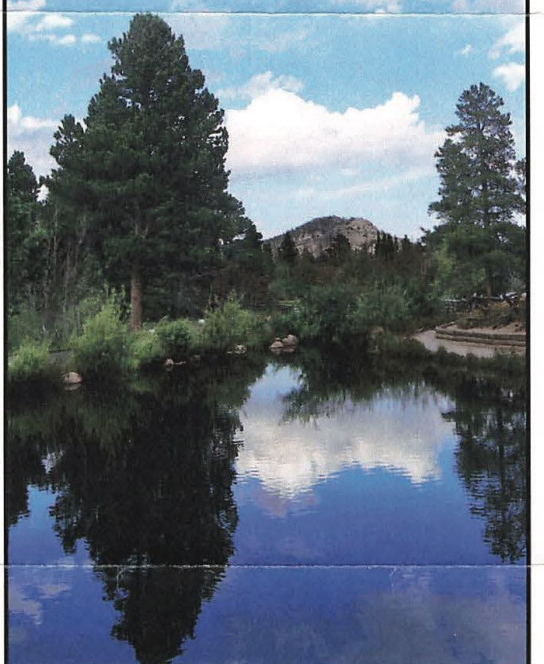
Towns in Westchester have objected that such companies abuse the system by filing for numerous unsubstantiated grievances. For example, early on, Aventine Properties filed dozens of grievances that valued single-family homes at \$1,000, according to an investigation by Tax Watch in 2015. "To protect my client, I underestimate the value," Burns said. It did so in Delaware County. More recently, requested reductions have not been so extreme. In Franklin, proposed reassessments were 11 or 16% of assessed value in 2023 and then a uniform 75% in 2025. For more-valuable properties, now the maximum reduction allowed by SCAR is 75%.

Assessors and BARs reject such low-ball amounts. State law requires that filer swear that "all statements made on this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that the making of any willful false statement of material fact herein will subject me to the provisions of the penal law relevant to the making and filing of false instruments." However, an estimation of property value is considered an opinion, and district attorneys will not prosecute.

See TAX, continued on Page 18

Courtney FUNERAL HOME

25 Townsend St.
Walton, NY 13856



Kurt Lester, Owner/Director
Natasha Tompkins, Director
Herb Bryant, Director

607-865-4383
www.courtneyfh.com

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY:

The Franklin Recreation Commission provides youth sports opportunities to Franklin children and also manages the Franklin Community Pool, the only amenity of its kind for miles around.

The pool provides swimming lessons to Franklin and Unatego youth for a nominal fee each year, teaching invaluable lifesaving water safety skills. The pool is available at no charge to anyone wishing to use it. We have a talented group of lifeguards to ensure swimmer safety. Our popular water aerobics class is open to ages 18 and older for a nominal fee. The pool facility is also available for private events, again for a nominal fee.

But now, we are fundraising for necessary repairs and maintenance to keep this important amenity safe and available to all.

Our youth sports program has struggled in the past several years and we are fortunate that the Unatego Recreation Commission allows Franklin youth to participate in their programs. But due to popular demand, there is a need to expand our field sports offerings here in Franklin. We have had robust attendance for T-Ball and plan to add slow pitch baseball in Spring 2026. We also plan to add introductory soccer in Fall 2026. We currently have open gym sessions in the winter at Franklin Central School. To cover this expansion, we need both coaching volunteers and funding.

How can you help? We expect our new sponsorship program will be a win-win for everyone! Please consider becoming a sponsor at one of these levels:

Silver: \$100. Silver sponsors receive acknowledgment on the Village of Franklin and Municipality of Franklin social media pages, on flyers, and on a sign posted at field sports games in Franklin.

Gold: \$200. Gold sponsors receive all that the Silver level includes, plus business, organization, or individual name on the back of all our baseball and T-ball shirts.

Platinum: \$300. Platinum sponsors receive all that the Gold level includes, plus a sign at the swimming pool pavilion for the season.

Please use the form on Page 18 to indicate which sponsorship level you would like to purchase. If you have any questions, please contact us at Mayor@villageoffranklinny.us or call 607-829-6776.

Thank you in advance for your invaluable support that keeps our children's field sports and community pool amenities alive.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor Johanna VanDeusen
Pool Director Joanna Banks
Field Sports Director Kendall Beadle

Village of Franklin Recreation Commission
141 Water Street, PO Box 886
Franklin, NY 13775.



SPRING FOR BEES

Spring is an exciting time. I am in the garden daily to see what plants have newly appeared or are starting to flower. While these blossoms lift my spirits after the long winter months, they are more important for the survival of our native bees as they emerge from their winter shelters.

The earliest flowers are swamped with bee activity on sunny days. Bulbs such as glory-of-the-snow (*Chionodoxa*), Siberian squill (*Scilla siberica*), snowdrops (*Galanthus*), and winter aconite (*Eranthis*) bloom within the melting snow in early spring. I used to rake the autumn accumulation of leaves off my bulb areas as early in spring as possible, for fear that it would smother these small bulbs. Now I know not to do this, because the leaves enrich the soil and also shelter bees and other life. The bulbs are able to push through the leaves without my help, except for any especially thick layers. Those I scuffle up by hand but still leave in place.

Willows are a critical early source of nectar and pollen for bees. In my garden, the earliest willow to flower (when the catkins turn yellow) is *Salix* 'Mt Aso,' a Japanese variety selected for its pink catkins. Our native pussy willow, *Salix discolor*, is not far behind, and has the added benefit of being the larval host for the viceroy, red-spotted purple, and green comma butterflies. Black willow (*Salix nigra*) is another early bloomer that supports pollinators and is a host plant. In fact, our native willows serve as host plants for at least 400 species of moths and butterflies, according to a study published by Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy in 2009.

Red maples (*Acer rubrum*) are among the first big trees to flower, providing food for our native pollinators and giving our hills that rosy haze in early spring. Maples are also a host for 297 lepidoptera (the order of moths and butterflies), according to Tallamy's study. Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.) is an early blooming native understory tree. It is a pollen and nectar source and hosts over 120 species of lepidoptera. Other native trees providing early pollinator resources include alders (pollen only), hawthorns, ash (pollen only), black cherry, and oak (pollen only).

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) is a shrub with

GREENBANKS GARDENING

With
Deborah Banks



bright yellow flowers in early spring and yellow leaves in the fall. In addition to providing early food for pollinators, it is the host plant for the spicebush swallowtail butterfly and ten other species. The white blossoms of black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) also support pollinators. Both of these native shrubs produce berries in summer for birds and other wildlife.

Early blooming shade plants attract spring flying bees such as mining bees, bumble bee queens, and blue orchard bees. Some early native woodland perennials include bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba* and *H. americana*), trillium (*Trillium erectum*), trout lily (*Erythronium*), twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), violets (*Viola canadensis*), and Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*). They take advantage of the greater amount of sunlight available before the trees around them leaf out.

I keep a close eye on bloodroot after it emerges, because the blooming period is notoriously brief. It drops its petals after pollination has occurred, sometimes within a day or two. The other perennials listed above have longer lasting flowers. Virginia bluebells bloom for three or four weeks but are ephemeral. That is, the entire plant dies back to the ground by early summer.

Spring-flowering ground covers include

creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*), foam flower (*Tiarella*), Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*), and woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*). All these native species prefer shade and are popular with many types of native bees and other pollinators.

Planting flowers may be the most important thing you can do to help native bees, especially plants that bloom early in the year. Bees urgently need nectar (carbohydrates) and pollen (protein) when they emerge. Plant groupings of the same plant species, because a particular pollinator prefers to visit one type of flower at a time and will expend extra energy hunting for additional plants of that type.

Be cautious when choosing a cultivar of a plant instead of the straight species. Cultivars are not bred with the goal of making a plant more useful for bees. Double flowers, color changes, or lack of scent may render a cultivar of less or no use to bees. Also, avoid plants that have been treated with pesticides.

In addition, plant a variety of flowers to support different types of bees. Some bees have short tongues; others have long tongues; some bees called specialists need one specific plant species. Ideally, you should have at least eight species that bloom at the same time.

I've read that gardeners are more likely to plant flowers that bloom in spring. Let's make them all count!

FRANKLIN GUEST HOUSE

FRANKLIN, NY



Franklin's Original Airbnb, Since 2015!

Franklin-Guest-House.com

franklin.guest.house@gmail.com

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
NEW YORK
HEALTH

**IT'S TIME FOR
NEW YORK
TO FIGHT BACK**

SAVE LIVES. SAVE MONEY. COVER EVERYONE.
PASS THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT

NYHCAMPAIGN.ORG



INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Many things have changed in real estate over the past few years, and we've discussed many of them here. This time, let's talk about photos.

Good pictures make a massive difference in a world where anyone, anywhere, can browse real estate listings on their phone or computer.

Check out many of the properties online that are for sale by owner. Most people don't know how to take a flattering indoor picture. They almost all have pictures that don't only fail to entice – they actively push you to click away.

What do I mean? Dark, cluttered pictures. Unmade beds and overflowing shelves. Messy yards, scary garages, bad angles – there are so many ways to ruin a picture, and they seem to find them all.

Most real estate agents have learned to take good photos. Some take excellent ones. And they make a massive difference. I know someone who has been through three different real estate agents in another state. The first one displayed poorly lit, overly cluttered rooms, saying it looked "great." There was little interest in the listing. After a few months, a new agent took over. The lights came up, the clutter moved out. But the house didn't sell.

The most recent agent added drone shots that showed that – surprise! – the house was in a remarkable spot. Interest in that house has picked up substantially, despite a real estate slump. Same house, three sets of pictures, and huge differences in outcomes.

In our area, some agents have added drone shots and 3-D tours to every listing. And, used judiciously, they certainly can make properties look appealing.

Some have also embraced virtual staging, which eliminates the difficulty buyers have in grasping the potential of an empty house. Virtual staging should be clearly labeled, and is usually paired with a picture of the room as it is. It makes a big difference and is a useful tool.

But these techniques can be overused. Skies that belong in a Maxfield Parrish print are a dead giveaway. Brilliantly bright rooms are suspicious, too. Photoshop can make a room look almost cartoonish. 3-D

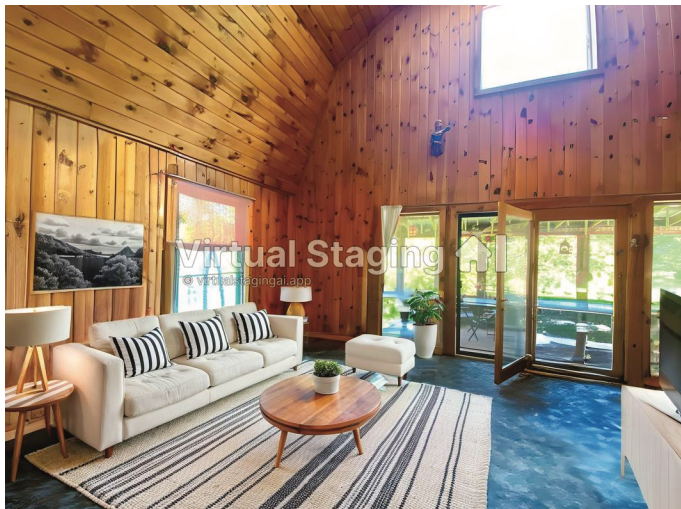
tours can become distractions, or worse, annoying. Some people love them, and for them, they're a wonderful thing. But others are annoyed by the clicks, the vertigo, and the over-enhanced colors. A simple floor plan can accomplish the same thing.

Virtual staging can be ridiculous. When it suggests the idea of furnishings, it is doing its job. When it becomes a style statement of its own, the pictures become about the imaginary furniture instead of the room itself.

Progress offers new tools, and those tools can be revolutionary. But overused, or used incorrectly, they can undermine their original purpose. The idea is to offer realistic pictures. Flattering pictures are good. Unrealistically perfect pictures? Not so much.

My goal with every picture is to allow a buyer to say, "This looks exactly like I expected."

That's what a picture is supposed to do.



An example of virtual staging. This room does not actually exist.



The Baker Street Park in snow.

Photo by the author

THE UPLIFT COLLECTIVE: A BUSY 2026 AHEAD

By Carol Ohmart-Behan

The Uplift Collective of Sidney Center plans a full year ahead, with the return of their popular community events and the expansion of their new mission to support children and families faced with a health crisis.

At their meeting on February 3rd, they settled on the following events and dates:

Movie Nights at Baker Street Park in June, July, and August (dates TBA)

The 4th Annual Down Home Fall Fest on Sunday, October 4th

Holidays in the Hamlet on Saturday, December 5th

With the exception of the Holiday event, to be hosted at the Fire Station, all others will take place at the Baker Street Park. Details will be posted on Facebook as the dates come

closer: <https://www.facebook.com/TheUpliftNY>

Over the years, the successes of this dedicated Sidney Center group are due to the involvement and volunteering of many community members. Anyone eager to learn more is invited to attend the open meetings on April 27, July 22, and October 14. The April and July meetings will be held at the Park pavilion, weather permitting. October's will be held at the Fire Hall.

The Collective's outreach to children and families in a health crisis will be primarily through care packages comprised of items offering comfort and joy. They are seeking donations from the public to expand this effort.

Examples include small blankets, slippers and warm socks, stuffed animals, coloring books, self-care items. A full list will soon be posted on Facebook with directions for how to donate. A further article on this endeavor will

See UPLIFT, continued on Page 17

TREADWELL TRIBULATIONS

EFC and DOH on WIA and SRF for TWD...Wha?

By Brian Brock

The Treadwell water system is in such disrepair that it needs to be replaced at a cost of \$1.65 million.

The Town of Franklin has only half that much cash in the bank. Even if the board wanted to contribute some of it, Town Law, Article 12 does not allow the transfer of general funds to a water district.

The Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 gifted the town with \$196 thousand from its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. One of the few prescribed uses was for water infrastructure. While it took more than a year, the town board eventually parted with \$80 thousand to Treadwell for an engineering study as well as a new chlorinator and for replacing a few lead service lines. However, a year was lost in the delay.

In another lucky break, our congressman at the time was willing to grant \$960 thousand as one of his fifteen member items in the federal budget. Unfortunately, Congress did not pass a budget that year, and Molinaro was not reelected for the next year. Our town board did not manage to get the project included among the member's items of his successor, Josh Riley.

After the town's experience with the byzantine process of congressional appropriations, our board applied for money from state Environmental Facilities Corporation.

See TREADWELL, continued on Page 17

**COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
SPRAY FOAM**

845-594-7413

**YOUR HOME
DESERVES THE BEST!**

**Spray Foam Insulation
Concrete Lifting
Void Filling
Soil Stabilization**

FREE ESTIMATES
FULLY INSURED
15+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

**KANE DIBENEDETTO
DENVER, NY**

845-594-7413

HOMEFOAMINSULATION.NET HOMEFOAMINSULATION@YAHOO.COM

PERMITS PROGRESS

Staff Report

Back in 2024, the Franklin Planning Board was unusually busy reviewing commercial developments. In our rural town, years can pass without even one special-use permit for a business being considered. Then in half a year, the board issued four such permits.

These permits lapse if the business is not up and running within a year of issuance unless the planning board grants a renewal. Franklin Zoning Law allows for only one permit renewal. If a business is not operating by the end of the second year, the landowner must repeat the entire process, including a public hearing. However, once a business is operating, that use is permitted as long as the business operates, even if the property is sold.

How have these various businesses plans progressed?

North Star Farm LLC (2023). In September 2024, Justine Kamm was permitted for a quartet of newly-built domes for use as short-term rentals and a fifth dome for activity space



and a store on Franklin Heights Road. These opened on schedule in May 2025 and remained busy until the season closed in early November. Inside, each dome has two double beds, a 3/4 bathroom, and a kitchenette. Outside, there is a private deck and hot tub. For all, there is a barrel sauna and campfire circle.

95 Stewart LLC (2019). In September 2024, Michael Abate was permitted for pet grooming, training, and boarding at the former Love and Hope Animal Sanctuary on Stewart Road. The only progress has been some interior demolition. In September 2025, Mr. Abate received a renewal of his permit.



Catskill Food Company LLC (2012). In October 2024, Jonah Shaw was permitted for processing smoked meats and cannabis in the kitchen and cafeteria of the former Abraham L. Kellogg Elementary School on Church Street in Treadwell. Some progress was made setting up the facilities, but the start of processing is months away. In October 2025, Mr. Shaw received a renewal of his permit. Also, he will need to renew his permit from the Office of Cannabis Management by 8/19/26.

38 Church Street LLC (2023). In February 2025, Jonah Shaw was permitted for the short-term rental of offices in the same school building rehabbed as living spaces, and of the gym



and common spaces for events. Little progress was made with these renovations.

In January 2026, Mr. Shaw received a renewal of his permit. He was reminded by the board that one condition of this permit is a perimeter fence, which has yet to be built.

Unresolved by the planning board is the conflict between Shaw's permits and his continued advertising of leasing of some or all of the school building as a regional hub for commercial processing of cannabis by **Catskill Weed Works LLC (2024)**. He claims that this use is "Fully Municipally Approved." [<https://catskillweedworks.com/>]



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

Good Taste Fine Wines and Spirits is located (in the rear parking area next to the *Good Taste Epicurean Food Market*) at **438 Main Street in Franklin, NY**, making us a convenient go-to destination for all your favorite adult beverages. Explore a wide variety of wines, and top-shelf spirits – we have something for every taste and occasion.



Enjoy friendly service and expert advice to help you find the perfect bottle. We look forward to serving you and if we don't carry your personal favorites, we will order them.

Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 7 PM Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 5pm to 7 pm

Phone: 607-230-4053.....Website: goodtastewines.com



FOCUS ON ENERGY

POSSIBLE POWER PROJECTS

By Brian Brock

Government has to keep the power flowing, but the question is how to meet growing demands for electricity. In and around Franklin, there are prospects for a diverse menu of local options. However, all five of these are being developed by out-of-state corporations to supply demands of downstate.

BIRCH WHISTLER, WIND

POWER Generate 100 MW
STRUCTURE Some two dozen turbines would dot the hilltops along the high ground between the Susquehanna and Delaware river basins.
CONNECTION: 345 kV Edic-Fraser powerline
PERMITTING Yet to apply to ORES
IN-SERVICE Paused, previously November 2029
DEVELOPER National Renewable Solutions of Minnetonka MN, subsidiary of BlackRock Real Assets Climate Finance Partnership, International

CONSTITUTION PIPELINE, METHANE GAS

ENERGY Transport 650 million cubic feet of methane daily, more with addition of midstream compressor(s)
STRUCTURE 30-inch pipeline from Susquehanna PA to Schoharie NY would run across 9.4 miles of Franklin along ridge between Ouleout Creek and Susquehanna River.
CONNECTION: Constitution Transfer Station to Iroquois Pipeline, Wright NY
PERMITTING Applied to FERC 6/13/13, again 12/19/25; Dockets CP13-499 and CP18-5
IN-SERVICE November 2027
DEVELOPER Constitution Pipeline Company LLC, Houston TX, wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of The Williams Companies Inc., Tulsa OK



FRASER ENERGY, STORAGE

POWER Store 135 MW for 4 hours
STRUCTURE Banks of dozens of BESS containers on 10 acres
CONNECTION Fraser substation, Town of Delhi
PERMITTING NYSDEC, SEQR with lead agency Town of Hamden
IN-SERVICE October 2029
DEVELOPER EDF Power Solutions, a wholly owned subsidiary of EDF Group of Paris, France; [Électricité de France](#)

JENNISON SOLUTION, TRANSMISSION

POTENTIAL Transmit 115 kV
STRUCTURE Line 949 stretching 25.4 miles from Bainbridge to Fraser including 6.1 miles across southern Franklin
CONNECTION From Jennison substation, Town of Bainbridge to Fraser substation, Town of Delhi
PERMITTING Applied NYS PSC; Case 24-T-0677
IN-SERVICE 2028 or 2029
DEVELOPER New York State Gas and Electric of Avangrid Networks Inc., subsidiary of Avangrid, member of Iberdrola Group of Bilbo, Spain

STONEWALL SOLAR

POWER Generate 145 MW, battery storage 72.5 MW
STRUCTURE Few hundred acres of panels in a project area 1,670 acres
CONNECTION 115 kV Colliersville-Fraser powerline
PERMITTING Yet to apply to ORES
IN-SERVICE Paused
DEVELOPER Nexamp of Boston MA, subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation of Tokyo, Japan



2016: U.S. Marshall escorting loggers to cut down a working maple grove

MEGAN AND THE MAPLE TREES

By Jan Mulroy

I MET HER HOLDING A LINE
 SHE WAS TAPPING HER TREES
 OH IT WAS BITTER SWEET
 EVEN THE SAP ROSE EARLY THIS TIME

SHE HAD THE VOICE OF REASON
 A VOICE SO CLEAR AND SO TRUE
 SHE SAID THE LEAST THEY COULD DO
 WAS LET HER FINISH THE SEASON

THEY CAME WITH THE RISING SUN
 AND RIGHT FROM HER HANDS
 THEY TOOK HER PRECIOUS LAND
 REVVING THEIR CHAINSAWS AND CARRYING GUNS

SHE FELL DOWN TO HER KNEES
 AND SHE COVERED HER EYES
 BUT SHE COULD NOT HOLD HER CRIES
 OH GONE FOREVER ARE THE MAPLE TREES

SHE WENT ALL THE WAY TO WASHINGTON
 OH SHE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY
 ABOUT THE LIVING SHE MAKES
 AND ALL OF THE DESTRUCTION

I SAW HER WORKING THE LINE
 SHE WAS FRYING UP PANCAKES
 ON A SOLAR POWERED HOTPLATE
 CHANTING PANCAKES NOT PIPELINES

MEGAN AND HER MAPLE TREES
 SHE WAS MAKING MAPLE SYRUP
 AND FACED THE FACE OF GREED
 SHE WAS MAKING MAPLE SYRUP
 AND GAVE THE LAST DROP
 SO COURAGEOUSLY

This is a true story. On March 1, 2016, Williams started cutting trees on Megan's maple farm in Pennsylvania well before New York State completed the permitting for the Water Quality Certificate (WQC) that would have allowed building the pipeline. It was never built, but the maple grove is gone. Megan has replanted with funds from a settlement with Williams..



U.S. marshalls guard the destruction of a family's maple grove

PIPELINE, continued from Page 1

use in or near the right-of-way (ROW). The many restrictions and some acceptable activities - with pre-approval - can be found in *Appendix D: Proposed Land Uses for Transmission Pipeline ROW* of the report. By law, if wanting to dig in a ROW, a landowner with an easement would have to follow procedures through the One-Call System which can be reached by accessing UDIG NY (<https://udigny.org/>). Excavators have their own responsibilities as some need to be certified in NYS. However, UDIG NY offers certification training to all excavators.

From the report, local government actions may include:

Constraints on activities on or near transmission pipeline rights-of-way;

Restrictions on the types of land use and development allowed along the transmission pipeline rights-of-way;

Specific design or construction features of the development;

Measures to facilitate emergency response and evacuation in the event of a transmission pipeline incident.

The report gives Baseline (BL) practices ("These practices should be implemented by stakeholders in preparation for future land use and development.") and New Development (ND) practices ("These practices should be implemented by stakeholders when specific new land use and development projects are proposed.")

For example, ND 18, "Consider Transmission Pipeline Operation Noise and Odor in Design and Location of Residential, Mixed-Use, and Commercial Land Use Development", points out pipeline and above ground facilities activities that may impact adjacent land development.

From the report:

The operation of gas compressor or pump station machinery may generate noise and odors;

Start-up and shut-down activities may produce noise and odors;

Heat exchangers or other equipment may produce visible emissions, such as steam, to the air;

Some pressure limiting stations may include relief valves that may release gas into the atmosphere;

Facilities used to odorize natural gas are designed to minimize odorant emissions; however, occasional releases or spills could occur that could concern nearby residents;

Backup power generators may be operated periodically, resulting in noise and odors; and

Facility repairs and maintenance may require the operation of heavy construction equipment

While Constitution Pipeline may never be built, it would be prudent to consider how we would have to adapt if it were. After all, we are all stakeholders in the Town of Franklin. The decision making and the planning is up to us.

PAYDAY, continued from Page 1

ever, to profit, a company must have both supply in and demand out.

The first Constitution Pipeline project was to ship much of the gas from its terminus in Wright, NY northward into Canada via the Iroquois Pipeline with its South-to-North (SoNo) Reversal project.

Since the project was resurrected last spring, a destination for this gas beyond Wright has been in question. Various project maps have come and gone. They show gas flowing from Constitution Transfer Station through both Iroquois and TGP 200 pipelines. Most maps show the gas flowing south and east. However, as East Daley Analytics has repeatedly highlighted, those two pipelines operate at close to capacity at times of greatest demand. There is little space there to accept gas from Constitution, particularly when needed most. One recent map shows gas flowing north and west as well.

Williams hired S&P Global, Commodity Insights and Market Intelligence to make the economic case for building Constitution Pipeline. This consultant estimated billions of dollars in savings for consumers over the 15-year life of the project with the gas split roughly equally between New York and New England. However, the slide presentation released by S&P lacks any specifics on how the gas was to get to consumers in New England. Questions from this newspaper concerning this missing link were acknowledged by S&P but went unanswered. Likewise, a copy of the report showing the data and calculations was not provided.

McKinsey & Company, the strategy and management consulting firm, projected savings to consumers over the next five years if more gas was delivered to NYC Metro and New England regions. Constitution Pipeline was not included among potential supplies. By the end of the decade, additional supplies from Transco NESE, Iroquois ExC, and Millennium PRO could deliver an additional billion cubic feet per day of methane into the NYC Metro region.

The only possible consumers mentioned by Williams are the future fabrication plants for DRAM chips of Micron

Technology to be located in upstate New York north of Syracuse. The town of Clay in Onondaga County is serviced by Niagara Mohawk Energy, a subsidiary of National Grid. National Grid filed with FERC to be an intervenor in the permitting process, presumably to protect its interests in the pipeline project.

Another possibility is using gas from Constitution to generate electricity which could then be transmitted downstate. While Williams has three power projects in Ohio and one in Utah, it has proposed nothing in New York.

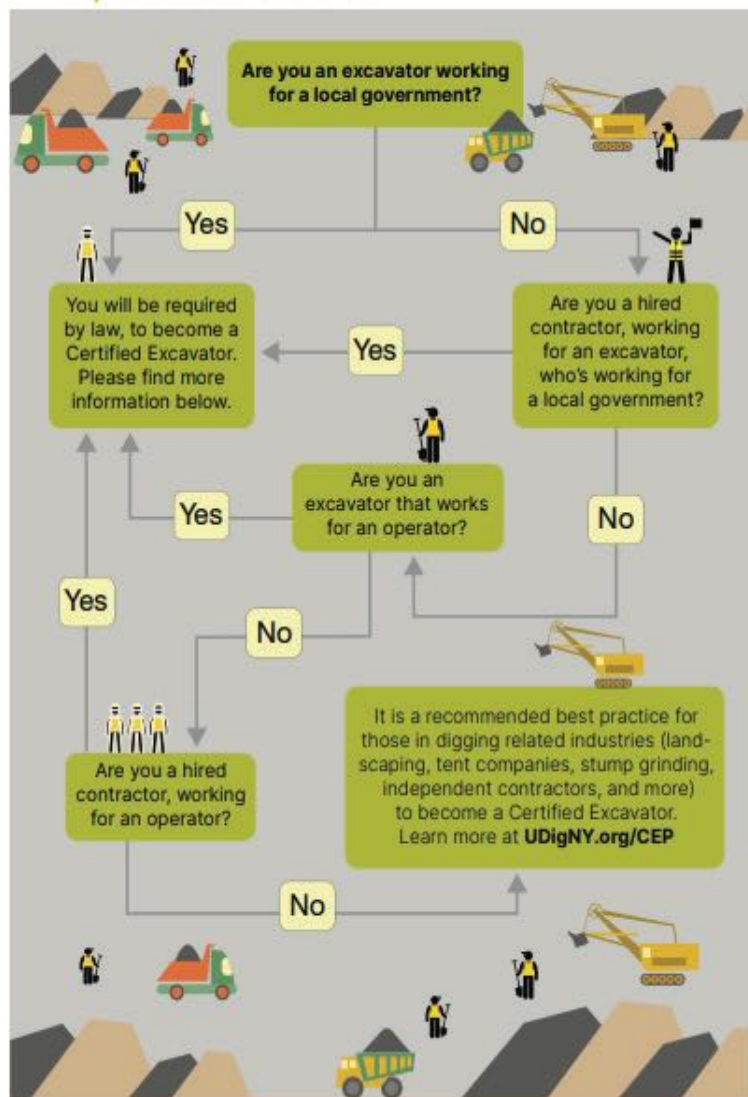
Economics is a matter of balancing supply with demand. There may not be an excess of supply in Pennsylvania that's pressing for yet another path into New York. Gas reserves are finite. Decades ago, the supply from gas pools had peaked and has been declining since. In the 1990s, the new technology of high-volume hydraulic fracking of black shales replaced pumping from pools as the principal source. In the Appalachian Basin, those black shales are mostly in the Utica and Marcellus formations. The supply from the Utica Fm. peaked in 2019 and has been declining ever since. Supply from Marcellus Fm. plateaued in 2021.

At the same time, numerous new pipelines have provided pathways for outflow of gas from neighboring Pennsylvania, mostly to the south and southwest for domestic use and export. Coterra Energy, formerly Cabot Oil & Gas, was intended and would be the principal supplier to the Constitution Pipeline. In the third quarter earnings call, CEO Jordan expressed ambivalence about the project, and the fourth quarter call was not held because of its merger with Devon Energy.

Williams' business plan for the Constitution Pipeline is nowhere in sight. In December, the company applied to FERC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This application lacked consumers of the gas, but Williams committed to having contracts signed before permits were granted, which it expects by August of this year.

Certified Excavator FAQ

Am I required to become certified?



CONSTITUTION CHRONICLES

- 30 Sep.** NYS DEC sends third Notice of Incomplete Application to Williams Companies.
- 4 Nov.** S&P Global, a consultant to Williams, releases its speculative analysis that Constitution would produce a net saving to customers in the Northeast of \$8.6 billion over 15 years.
- 7 Nov.** Williams withdraws application to NYS DEC for a Water Quality Certificate.
- 19 Dec.** Williams Companies submits to FERC a Petition of Constitution Pipeline Company for Reissuance of Certificate Authority and Reaffirmance of DEC Waiver Determination.
- 12 Jan.** NYS AG requests that FERC comply with U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit by dismissing proceedings under docket numbers CP 13-499 and CP 18-5, deadline of January 23rd.
- 13 Jan.** Williams mails information packet to all affected land owners, neighbors, and officials. It refers them to documents sent to local libraries a decade ago, long since discarded by most.
- 23 Jan.** FERC acknowledges court order of 11/18/21 and mandate of 1/10/22 and confirms that proceedings have been dismissed but neither rejects or accepts the petition for CPC.
- 28 Jan.** NYS DEC requests that FERC dismiss Williams' petition and require the permitting process for Constitution Pipeline total restart including a WQC from DEC.
- 29 Jan.** Two law firms support the positions of DEC: Earth Justice for Catskill Mountainkeeper et al and Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic for Stop the Pipeline.
- 31 Jan.** Williams signs a lease agreement to ship 650 MMcf/d on Iroquois pipeline for 15 years starting May 1, 2027 at \$33.2 million per year.
- 19 Feb.** At the insistence of FERC, Williams send a replacement set of applications documents to local depository libraries, but on a flash drive not as printed binders and map sheets.
- 20 Feb.** NYS DEC requests a rescission and rehearing on FERC's order of 1/23 and is joined by Earth Justice for Catskill Mountainkeeper et al and Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic for STP.



ANNALS OF SUSTAINABILITY

OUR DREAMS COME TRUE!

By Dustin Wood

Photos by the author

Bittersweet Farm Brewery started in 2023 on an idyllic dairy farm in a location hard to describe. It's not quite Franklin, nor Unadilla; not quite Wells Bridge, nor Sidney - it lies within the Town of Sidney with a Franklin zip code. The farm and property are better described as "down the road from the Dam," or "just off Covered Bridge Road," or "that hop farm you see from the interstate."

The Peloso Dairy Farm saw its heyday in the 1970s and 80s. Milk was processed on site and sold all across the region. As time went on, supply and demand drifted in opposite directions, and production slowly ceased. In 2017, the farm was offered a new agricultural identity: Eagle Landing Hop Yard

I met Marty and Linda Peloso and their children/stepchildren Jess, Josh, and Sheri Youngs sometime in 2016 when they visited my small hop farm a few miles down the road to get some tips and pointers on growing hops. I had been growing hops since 2013, but it turns out I was also learning, because hops slowly teach how to grow them. They are perennial, taking a few years to establish their underground root system. Leading up to harvest, every little thing you do affects your final yield, whether it's



fertilization, irrigation, pest control, or soil practices. So, if you make a mistake, it's very tough to figure out which one! But you'll have the whole winter to think about it.

Once the world's leading producer of hops, New York State's greatest hop production occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many hop farms were established in the area, and some farms even had seasonal lodging for the workers - sometimes several hundred - named "Hop Cities." Hop picking season was a special time of the year as workers would often gather in the evenings at dances, or "hops", to celebrate with food and music.

A fierce and unwavering fungal blight (now known as Downy Mildew) began to sweep across the region in the early 1900s. Coupled with Prohibition, the demise of New York's hop industry was imminent. Drier and more suitable conditions for growing hops were found in the Pacific Northwest, and NY's production was soon outcompeted. By the 1930s, most of the area's hop farms were gone.

Hop farming made a comeback in the early 2010s. This was partly due to the development and successful trials of some mildew-resistant hop varieties, as well as NYS legislation and promotion of agri-tourism, with a heavy emphasis on craft beverage production using NYS products. Enter: the "Farm Brewery Law," under which farm brewers could obtain some tax benefits and lower barriers to receiving a brewing license, as long as they satisfied an incremental percentage requirement to use NYS ingredients (as of 2026, the require-



ment is 60%). This meant that NYS-grown hops (and malt) would be in higher demand, which encouraged existing farms and new farmers alike to establish hopyards. Long story short, the Peloso family built a two-acre hopyard in 2017, raising a hundred some-odd larch poles and thousands of feet of steel cable as the supporting trellis for the hops to grow upon. Hops are a tremendously laborious crop at this scale. With help from family and friends, it is doable; but, perhaps, not very sustainable. The natural progression is to follow your product through the supply chain. If you can grow hops, you can make beer, right?

Our paths crossed again in 2023 and we decided to team up at the Eagle Landing Hop Yard to bring a farm brewery to fruition. My experience in brewing and plant science and our shared experience in small-scale farming were a good match. We retrofitted the milkhouse into a brewhouse, bringing the barn back to life. Digging through the old dairy implements and equipment was like going back in time to a simpler, yet probably harder life on a farm. We even tried to use some of the dairy equipment in our brewing operation (stainless steel is common to both), with some success.

Our operation is small but diverse. We sell our kegs to bars and restaurants. We bought a canner (canning is tough, by the way) and have begun distributing our cans to local stores. Our beers are simple in concept, but are often brewed with uncommon ingredients, including foraged and cultivated plants like chicory root and calendula flowers. And we use mostly NYS ingredients, including hops from our farm. Perhaps our most recognizable asset is the "Brew Bus," a dark grey school bus that we use as a tap truck and bring to local events, including concerts, festivals, and private gatherings. We've got a nice schedule lined up for the spring and summer. We hope to see you out and about in Delaware County!



PAWS, con't from Page 1

ing, so it was going to create issues as we dealt with dogs and cats. But then I realized we could just use the side entrance, create a lobby there so we could keep the animals separated, and everything could work."

They reused signs from the former clinic, but the new business is registered with the state as Paws Claws Veterinary Hospital, so Paws & Claws is just the unofficial name.

A visit to Paws Claws starts at that side door, where Bregman's receptionist, Airin, checks patients in and escorts you to an exam room. These are light, bright rooms that will be familiar to humans who visited Gregg Kujawski for medical care when it was Franklin Family Medicine.

My most recent visit was with two year-old cats due for their vaccines. Bregman is a quiet, calm presence. When I asked if my tuxedo cat's round little physique might indicate a problem, he said with a smile, "That's probably just his look."

Paws Claws is a full service veterinary practice, including surgery and cat boarding. Bregman said he hopes to be offering minimally invasive laparoscopic spaying soon. They are open for appointments Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They do not offer home visits, but hope to expand their hours into some evenings and weekends.

"I'm very impressed, very happy," with the local reception to his opening, Bregman said. "We've had a very good turnout, and I think we're providing a service the community needs."

Paws Claws Veterinary Hospital

607-829-7297

12080 County Highway 21
Franklin NY 13775

WORDS OF WISDOM

Posted on Facebook by
Town Council Member
Teddie Storey Henn:

This old saying struck a chord: "**Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.**"

STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Profiles in Conservation

By Stewart Hardison

RICK ROBERTS: TRAIL CREATOR

In my inaugural profile for Stewards of the Land, I reported that I often hear local people comment on the natural beauty of our area, from mountains to river valleys, and from villages to upland farms. This overview is often punctuated with mention of the abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities, whether fishing, hunting, kayaking, camping, or hiking.

When it comes to hiking, we are fortunate to have a wide network of trails for walking, biking, and cross-country skiing. These range from level grade rail trails to rugged mountain trails that ascend our highest hills and peaks. Whatever the season, you can find a trail that fits your interests and skill level. And regardless of where you are, the trails are reliably maintained and marked and kept free of deadfall. Like the natural beauty of our area, this maintenance is often taken for granted. But trails do not maintain themselves. They require the vigilance of volunteer citizens, who work hard to keep the trails open and safe.

Rick Roberts, of Hamden, is one of those hard-working citizens, and one who sets a standard for community service that makes a difference. An avid hiker who has completed the Appalachian Trail, the Long Trail, and the Finger Lakes Trail, Rick has been involved in trail creation and maintenance since retiring in 1999.

Today, Rick is the President of the Catskill Mountain Club (CMC), as well as the Executive Vice President of the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower, a non-profit created by the CMC to raise funds for the reconstruction of the original fire tower atop Bramley Mountain, between Delhi and Bovina. At 88 feet in height, it is the highest fire tower in New York State affording 360-degree views of the northern Catskills and the Catskill high peaks. Opened in Spring of 2025, the Bramley tower is a draw for area residents and tourists alike. The reconstruction and the negotiating of the labyrinth of necessary permits and engineering



studies took years of hard work by the Friends. Fortunately, Rick's background helped him be a principal force in that long process.

A 1967 graduate of Delaware Academy in Delhi, Rick went on to Syracuse, where he earned a BA in Forestry from SUNY College of Environmental Sciences & Forestry and a BS from Earth & Environmental Science, Syracuse University. Next, he spent a year in the Peace Corps, posted in Niger where he helped manage forestry projects dedicated to planting thousands of trees in the Sahel region. After completing his service, Rick returned to Delhi and took a surveying job with United Aerial Mapping Company, which had a contract to update the tax maps of Delaware County. After that two-year project, he was promoted to manager for the mapping of Cattaraugus County and then Wyoming County, both in western New York.

This career move allowed Rick and his new wife, Rosemary, to settle in Rochester, where he continued in tax mapping and she worked in the U.S. District Attorney's office. In 1982, Rick started his own company specializing in property information for attorneys, surveyors, appraisers, abstract offices, and title companies. His company prospered and he was able to sell it and retire in 1999.

Rick used his new freedom to take a hike – a serious hike. He made his way to Springer Mountain, GA, the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. Six months later, he was on the top of Maine's Mt. Katahdin,

the northern terminus. With one lifelong dream accomplished, Rick returned to Delaware County and a tract of land outside Hamden, high in the watershed of Covert Hollow Brook, where he built the home he lives in today.

Over the past twenty-five years, Rick has helped build and maintain a rich portfolio of hiking trails in our area, including the Palmer Hill Trail on Rt. 28 outside of Andes; the Andes Rail Trail; the Rail Trail Hawley Station and Nature Lands; the Bramley Mountain Trail system; the Delhi Trails above Delaware Academy; and the Ashokan Quarry Trail in Ulster County.

Rick has also dedicated years to the portion of the Finger Lakes Trail that winds through the Catskills, from the Cannonsville Reservoir to Ulster County. Thanks largely to Rick's efforts, the eastern terminus of the Finger Lakes Trail is now Slide Mountain, the highest peak in the Catskills. And thanks to his painstaking work of surveying and orienteering, combined with outreach to landowners, New York State DEC and NY City Watershed officials, he has managed to eliminate over 50 miles of road walking and move the trail onto public wildland and farmland. This is perhaps his proudest achievement.

Today, Rick continues to scout new trail building opportunities and is quietly working to convert the original D & O railbed to a rail trail extending from Delhi to Delancey.

Rick's service ethic is not limited to trails. He is



OTSEGO LAND TRUST IS HIRING

Be part of a dynamic team, working to protect local land and water for generations to come!



JOB OPENINGS:

- Communications and Development Manager
- Land Stewardship Intern



Applications due April 10. Visit <https://otsegolandtrust.org/joinourteam>




Land Stewardship Intern

Otsego Land Trust (OLT) seeks a motivated and enthusiastic summer season Land Stewardship Intern responsible for assistance in managing and maintaining OLT's public preserves for public use.

The internship offers a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in land management and conservation. The position reports to OLT's Ag Specialist & Public Property Manager.

TO APPLY Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume by **April 10, 2026** to justin@otsegolandtrust.org with the subject line: "Application: Land Stewardship Intern". No phone calls please.

For more information and criteria visit <https://otsegolandtrust.org/joinourteam>



Communications and Development Manager

The Communications & Development Manager is responsible for enhancing the organization's public profile; inspiring community enthusiasm and support for land protection and conservation easements; and building lasting relationships with landowners, donors, volunteers, residents, partners, press, and other community stakeholders.

The position reports to the Executive Director, while working closely with other staff and Board members.

TO APPLY Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and 1-2 writing samples or other creative works by **April 10, 2026** to tracy@otsegolandtrust.org with the subject line: "Application: Communications & Development Manager". No phone calls please.

For more information and criteria visit <https://otsegolandtrust.org/joinourteam>

active in several community support groups and willingly volunteers to the cause of community building, wherever it's needed. One example is the lovely pocket park in Delhi, at the corner of Main Street and Clinton Street. Rick oversaw the stonework and

taught SUNY Delhi students the craft of laying stone walls and the construction of stone planting beds. For anyone walking or driving by this pocket park, the oasis of beauty is another example of Rick's giving to his community.

music
literature
education

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

fine arts
poetry
holiday fun

AT THE LIBRARY

BOOK REVIEWS



HEARTWOOD

By Amity Gaige

Simon & Schuster
Paperbacks,

Reviewed by Alexis Greene

Have you ever walked on the Appalachian Trail, a 2,200-mile pathway that extends from Georgia to Maine? About 88 miles of it go through New York State in Rockland, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties.

I feel that I have walked this scenic but potentially hazardous trail after reading Amity Gaige's emotionally engaging novel *Heartwood*, published in paperback in 2025. Set in Maine, in the North Woods area of the Appalachian Trail, *Heartwood* delves into the search for a 42-year-old nurse and hiking enthusiast named Valerie Gillis, nicknamed Sparrow, who has been hiking on the trail for three months and now seems to be lost. Reportedly, novelist Gaige was "loosely inspired" by an actual tragedy on the Ap-

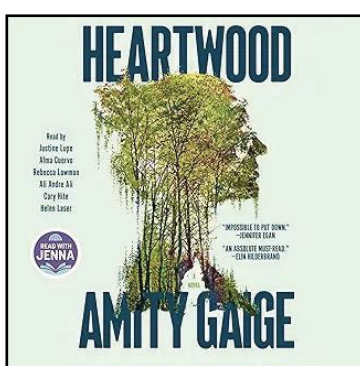
palachian Trail in Maine in 2013, when a 66-year-old nurse named Geraldine Largay was lost and adrift for 26 days and died.

The novel follows the emotional and activity trails of three women: "Lt. Bev," a Maine State game warden in charge of finding Sparrow; "Lena" – Lena Kucharski – a 76-year-old resident of a Connecticut retirement community, who is following the news about the missing hiker, whom she thinks might be her daughter. And of course, Valerie herself.

In the Valerie chapters, the lost hiker huddles desperately under a poor tent and tries to survive on almonds, cheese sticks and one chocolate bar from her backpack. She drinks water from a nearby creek. When she hears planes flying overhead, she assumes that they are trying to find her and she tries desperately to make her presence known from amid the dense trees.

We know all this because Valerie writes about

her attempts to survive in letters to her mother in a kind of journal that she has also packed. The chapters in which Valerie describes what she encounters, feels, and fears are at the heart of Gaige's novel about an adventure that now threatens



Valerie's life. This is the novel's emotional trail, which moves the story along and raises our own emotional involvement. *Heartwood* is a very apt title.

Here is an early letter from Valerie to her mother: "Dear Mom,

In this small tent, in these huge woods, it's you I imagine on the other end of this letter.

I write to pass the time. I

THE LIVING BEAUTY

By William Butler Yeats

I bade, because the wick and oil are spent
And frozen are the channels of the blood,
My discontented heart to draw content
From beauty that is cast out of a mould
In bronze, or that in dazzling marble appears,
Appears, but when we have gone is gone again,
Being more indifferent to our solitude
Than 'twere an apparition. O heart, we are old;
The living beauty is for younger men:
We cannot pay its tribute of wild tears.

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was a great Irish poet, and a winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (1923). "The Living Beauty" is in the public domain.

Yeats was born in Dublin on June 13, 1865, to an Anglo-Irish family. He died in 1939.

--- Bertha Rogers

write to keep my sanity.

No—I write because it's all I have.

A notebook, two pens. No more food.

If things don't work out in my favor, at least I will leave a record.

I'm writing love letters, I guess.

This one is for you."

Reading about getting lost along a trail made me wonder if that could happen here in upstate New York, where the fields and the woods and the paths are so inviting but where maybe I could get lost--

even on my own property!

Indeed, in addition to Valerie's fears and desperation, what draws you into Gaige's involving novel is how looking for Valerie inspires the searchers to recall and contemplate their own lives: from childhood to when they grew older, were married and needed to protect their own families. I won't reveal if Sparrow is found or not by the end. But certainly, Gaige's novel offers a stimulating emotional trail.

SPRING READING

Book Thoughts
By Susan Barnett

There are a few books that I read every spring. They are my escape. I have a strategy. I wait until the light begins to change, when the promise of spring is there, even if there is no sign of it on the ground. I'm beginning, just a little, to lose heart. I tire of shovels and grit and boots and layers, and I escape into worlds where nature is green and growing and celebrated in beautiful language. I open the first book, and I keep reading until the grass begins to green up and the daffodils turn their faces to the sunshine.

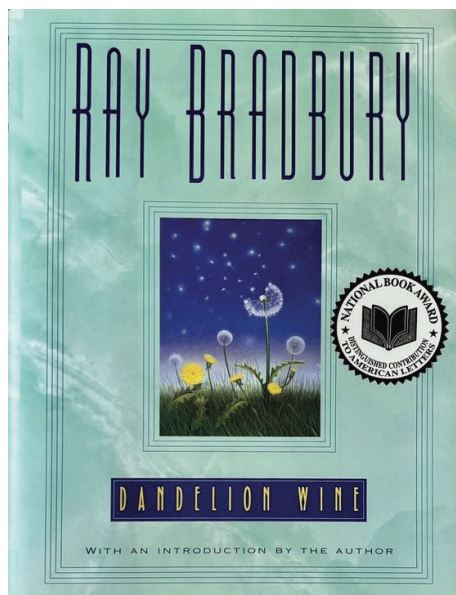
These books are a tonic after a long, cold winter. And even though I've read them many, many times, they never get old. After all those readings, they have become old friends.

The first is about just such a tonic – a dose of Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine*. It doesn't read like a novel because, in truth, it really isn't. It's a collection of short stories, all related to Bradbury's

memories of his boyhood in the Midwest.

And so...when the bitter winds of winter turn everything to gray, Grandma sends the boy into the cellar to bring up a bottle of yellow sun – the dandelion wine she bottled last summer.

That same Grandma can be found happily whistling, hammer-



ing new shingles on the roof, simply because she loves the job.

A young man boarding at their home learns that the soft hiss of a reel mower is music.

A very old lady meets a young newspaperman who is smitten with a picture of her from many years ago. It's one of the sweetest, most romantic stories I've ever read.

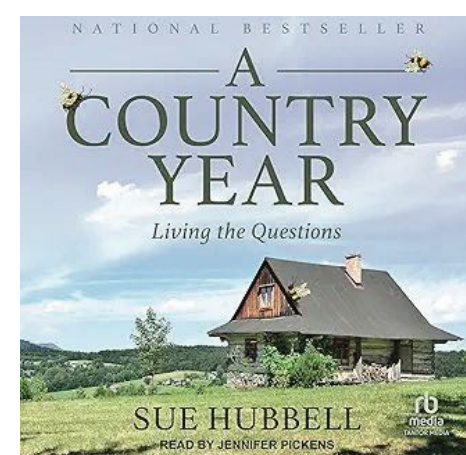
There are many more. That's just a taste. Bradbury is a master of atmosphere, and these are perhaps the loveliest stories he ever wrote.

Another spring favorite is Sue Hubbell's *A Country Year: Living The Questions*. I encountered this one for the first time when I was a young mother, wishing that I could leave the suburbs and live in the country.

Sue Hubbell wrote a truly beautiful book about her life on a homestead in the Ozarks, raising bees, marveling at the world around her, and trying to repair dying tractors.

There's something reminiscent of Marjorie Rawlings' *Cross Creek* about this book, but Sue Hubbell is far more rugged, and very capable of doing things herself. What she doesn't know, she teaches herself.

The book is organized by the seasons, and a combination of her eye for detail and sense of humor make each season one you experi-



ence alongside her.

A Country Year is a book I bought just because the cover appealed to me. It has become one of my favorites.

The next one is a children's book, but if you haven't read it in a while, I encourage you to pick it up again. *The Wind In The Willows* by Kenneth Grahame is a wise, wonderful book about friendship, loyalty, the importance of place, and a surprisingly nature-centric view of spirituality.

The BBC did an excellent stop-motion version of the book back in the 90s, but they left out one of the book's most controversial

Continued on the next page

CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES

BY JOHN O'CONNOR

The Ghosts of Morris Welcome New Spirits



When I first drove through Morris some twenty years ago, I had the feeling I have when I drive through many of the old villages in our area; that somehow I am surrounded by ghosts that are whispering the story of a place that was once vibrant and overflowing with life and commerce. Morris's Main Street was like that. These wonderful old buildings that nobody builds anymore, a sort of majesty much larger than would be expected for such a small town. On one of my first visits, I stopped into the Brookside Tavern, unable to resist a place that seemed unlikely in our day and age, and in my mind, inhabited by some of those ghosts. Dive bar is not the right word for the Brookside. But it isn't the Ritz, either. A few buzzards sat on bar stools and the woman on the other side of the bar, had a look on her face when I entered that said, "What are you doing here?" Taverns are rare in these parts. Ireland has its pubs that are social centers. Rural New York has flypaper that attracts exclusively bar flies or so it seems. Consider me a fly that flew into the trap. After a whiskey and beer back, I wandered up Main Street drawn to a magnificent looking edifice on the corner of Main

and Broad Streets. It was closed. But I peered in the windows to see a bookstore and an antique shop, which I would later visit when they were open. On those occasions I was the only person in the stores. It seemed to me at the time that these enterprises were doomed and that one day there would be nothing in this building that deserved so much more.

Time has passed, and yes, the building was empty for a while. I don't know how long. But passing through Morris a couple of years ago, I noticed the sign that announced a coffeehouse had arrived. I stopped and got out of the car to see what was up. When I walked in, I found a pleasant atmosphere and decor, though there were few customers. Things were quiet. The first thing that went through my head was, "I wish them luck". Well, this is one occasion when my wish came true, though luck really had nothing to do with it. The efforts and sensibility of Chris Riffle and Timothy Atticus, transplants from my old stomping grounds of Seattle, have transformed the ghostly-ness of the old Kenyon House into a lively gathering place for people looking for activities that make a population a community. The Gatehouse is not just a coffeehouse. Among other things, it is beyond a doubt one

of the best listening rooms in Otsego County. As time has passed, Chris and Timothy have created a performance space that is the only business I know anywhere near here that has the hallmark of a 1960s Greenwich Village style coffeehouse. They present daytime concerts in their Sunday Sessions with a wide variety of local and regional artists, as well as the occasional evening concert.

Although, I have been pretty much done with singing at open mics for a few decades, I made an exception and ventured out one Friday evening to give their once a month open mic a shot. The session was a surprise. Under the guidance of a young singer named Kahlil Jade, the slots are filled with diverse levels of talent, from first time performers to seasoned touring artists. The audience is one of the best open mic audiences I've experienced, giving their undivid-

ed attention and heaping applause on every performer as if they were a rising star. It stands to reason that the thought that went into creating an atmosphere conducive to musical performance is obviously in evidence, since Chris is a performing songwriter himself. He knows how to set up a sound system and make it work in harmony with the space, which is a fairly large room with chairs set up in front of the performance area, the shop of gifts and delectable goodies in the rear and customers ordering quality coffees and sodas at the counter. I spent an evening in December at an open mic, performing, listening and shopping for Christmas gifts. Time well spent and not a ghost in sight.

Check out their schedule of musical performers and readings at <https://www.thegatehousesny.com/>.



The owners of The Gatehouse, L to R: Timothy Atticus and Chris Riffle.

SPRING READING, continued from Page 12

and, I think, most beautiful chapters.

River Rat (a fine, home-loving fellow) and his friend Mole (a shy creature who longs for adventure) find themselves face to face with the ancient god Pan, who has sheltered a young, lost otter. Pan is described as the Friend, a being who helps wild creatures, then erases their memories of the encounter. That one chapter caused some upset when the book was published, but it's a lovely imagining of the protector of wild things and a really poetic, dreamy read.

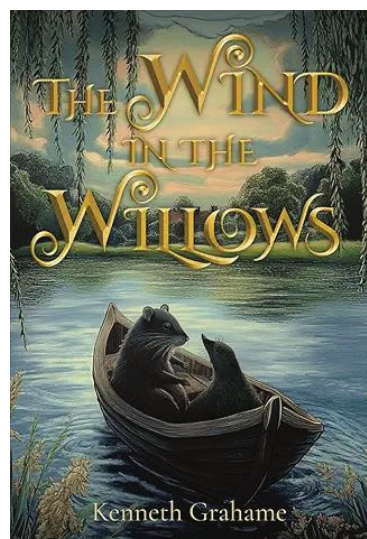
And, of course, there's Mr. Toad – the silly, wasteful, selfish creature who provides the comic relief and creates most of the problems the other animals have to solve.

Read it before you go outside again and encounter all the wild animals around you. It makes you see them differently.

Finally, there's *Where The Wings Grow* by Agnes DeMille. Yes, the dancer. But this isn't about her ca-

reer as a choreographer. This book is a memoir of her childhood – magical summers spent in the southern Catskills with her mother and father, and visits with their glamorous half-Japanese cousins who lived in a traditional Japanese house in Sullivan County.

This book is close to my heart because it reminds me of my own family – my dad's contentious, laughing, larger than life household of cousins from the city who gathered every year at the home my great-grandfather bought in the Hudson Valley. It is a little farm-



house – technically big enough for a family of four. I can remember summers when more than twenty people, related by blood or marriage, squeezed into its four walls.

Shoo Foo Den was built by DeMille's Aunt Caroline's husband, Jokichi Takamine, who made his fortune through the discovery of adrenaline. Jokichi was also instrumental in the famous gift of Washington DC's Japanese cherry trees.

There's a tragic love story involving their son, Jo, and another cousin, seen through the eyes of a young girl. And there are anecdotes about another famous relative, Cecil B. DeMille, and old Hollywood. But mostly this is a love letter to a place and a time, both gone. I am sorry when it ends, but I am glad it happened.

Susan Barnett is a writer, reader, real estate broker, and will be opening Shelter Books, a second hand book shop, in 2026.



Heathen Hill Yoga

Weekly community class - Sundays 3:00PM-4:15PM

810 Heathen Hill Road, Franklin NY

SUSAN "LIP" OREM
Franklin 607 829 5328

All levels Welcome!

visit my web site at www.heathenhill yoga.net

Jokes from the Drunken Grammarian:

- A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.
- Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything.

WEBSITE, continued from Page 3

from the previous site without updating, such as the schedule of town meetings for 2025. Text on the home page describing Franklin was copied from the Railroad and Community Museum webpage on Franklin history and the Wikipedia entry on Franklin, Delaware County, New York verbatim – errors and all. Wikipedia is copyrighted, but material may be used with attribution. Typically, when developing a new website, it would be shown to a small group to catch such mistakes. That was not done.

However, after that gap month, it was a relief to have online access to town documents such as budgets, financial reports, recent local laws, and minutes of meetings. Also, it again provided the information on how to contact the various town officials.

Within a week or so, that “filler” picture was replaced by a strangely-dark drone photo of the village from a few summers ago, which was in-turn replaced by a drone photo from last summer that was taken from higher-up, showing more of the Ouleout Valley. While attractively laid-out,



that photo is shown on every page, with only the title changing. This makes the site somewhat awkward to use because the content is not visible until you scroll downward.

The town website still has a ways to go. As of early March, there are still a few scattered mistakes. The home page, which on other town websites is typically filled with the most sought-after information, has little more than the office phone number.

Many documents are unavailable. The calendar remains empty of meetings and events. Delco Creative had yet to replace the tab icon (aka favicon) even though for the previous website it was the town seal, the seal that Delco itself had drafted.

GOOD PEOPLE. GREAT HOUSES.



UPSTATE COUNTRY REALTY

IT'S BETTER UPSTATE.

UPSTATECOUNTRYREALTY.COM

FRANKLIN, NY

845.514.5360



The Mountain Eagle

and the SCHOHARIE NEWS

Serving Delaware County and Its Residents

518-763-6854

mountaineaglenews@gmail.com

www.the-mountaineagle.com

P.O. Box 162
Schoharie, NY 12157
and

9 Railroad Avenue

P.O. Box 278

Stamford NY 12167

518.763.6854

Thinking of
BUYING OR SELLING
in the Catskills?

We're happy to assist you in exploring our area and discovering the home of your dreams!



COLDWELL BANKER TIMBERLAND PROPERTIES



MARGARETVILLE
(845)586-3321

BOICEVILLE/
MOUNT TREMPER
(845)657-4177

DELHI
(607)746-7400

ONEONTA
(607)435-3280

STAMFORD
(607)652-2220

SIDNEY
(607)604-4394

WALTON
(607)865-7000

WWW.TIMBERLANDPROPERTIES.COM



DOESN'T MATTER THE SEASON, WE ARE THE TOP DOGS IN CATSKILL REAL ESTATE!

VOTE, con't from Page 1

The 2026 election does not include the President, or U.S. Senators in New York State. The only Federal elections this year are for Congress. Statewide and local elections are governed by New York State Law. So, when the President says he is federalizing elections in 2026, in our state he is talking about Congressional elections.

This year, New York State's party primaries will be held on Tuesday, June 23rd with early voting from June 13th to 21st. Your registration in a political party must be valid, as of February 14th, 2026, to participate in the primary. The General Election will be on Tuesday, November 3rd with early voting on October 24th to November 1st. You have to be a New York State registered voter to vote in the General Election. You only have to show I.D. if your identity was not confirmed when you registered to vote.

New York has been slow to update its election laws. Early and mail-in voting, less restrictive voter registration regulations, and campaign finance matching funds are recent changes.

Running for office in New York State still remains a daunting process where petitions must be filed with a set number of required signatures of registered voters. Party designated candidates must collect and file signatures in March to be on the ballot in the Primary in June and/or the General Election in November on one of the four party lines: Democrat, Republican, Conservative, and Working Families.

We have closed primaries in New York State so you must be registered with a party to witness and sign petitions.

Independent candidates must file their petition in April and May for the November ballot. With these long lead times, one wonders if the NYS Board of Elections knows about computers.

Filing Petitions

Petitions are usually provided by the campaigns or local political committees.

In 2026, the filing period runs from February 24th until April 2nd. Candidates on the ballot will be Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General (15,000 required

signatures), U. S. Congress (1,250 required), State Senate (1,000 required), Assembly (500 required).

2026 is the beginning of the phase-in of even year elections for local offices. In Franklin the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Highway Supervisor will be on the ballot (23 DEM or 37 REP signatures required). Keep in mind the number of signatures

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

needed from Franklin voters is a small portion of the total required for all offices except for town offices.

The filing period for Independent candidates is from April 14th to May 26th. Candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General require 45,000 signatures, Congress (3,500 required), State Senate (3,000 required), and Assembly (1,500 required). In Franklin, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Highway Supervisor will need 57 signatures each. These petitions can be signed by any registered voter who has not already signed a petition for the designated office.

Candidate Matching Funds
In 2024 New York State

introduced Public Campaign Financing for New York statewide and state legislative candidates. This program was designed to take large contributions out of politics and help people run for office without having to depend on them. It is a new way for individual residents of a community to donate to New York State candidates. Any Franklin resident can donate between \$5 and \$250 to a candidate running for state office in the districts that include Franklin, i.e. statewide, NYS Senate District 51 and Assembly District 102. The candidate can receive up to a 12 to 1 match.

There are many ways to protect your right to vote by getting involved in the election process: you can run for office, volunteer on campaigns, contribute to candidates, and most importantly vote in every election.

If you worry about turnout in the 2026 election, the 2020 election held during a pandemic shutdown had the largest turnout of any election. People are more likely to vote when they feel their right is threatened.

BEAT, continued from Page 3

tions and safety issues to happenings around the village and town. Sign up to stay informed by using your phone to take a photo of the QR code at bottom right of this page.

Recreation Commission: Fundraising is key to keeping our community pool and children's field sports going. See related article on Page 5 announcing our new sponsorship program. The Recreation Commission meets most months on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Field Sports – Coaches and Volunteers Wanted: The goal is to assemble a Franklin team to play T-Ball, slow pitch baseball, and soccer in Franklin and also participate in sports offered at Unatego. Basketball in Franklin is being considered too. Franklin children can sign up with the Unatego Youth League for their activities. Adults are needed to assist with coaching and also to volunteer as helpers at events from spring through September 2026. If interested, please contact Kendall Beadle at 607-353-9988 or Mayor Hanna VanDeusen at Mayor@villageoffranklinny.us. We will have sign-up nights in the spring – watch for details at Franklin Central School and on Facebook.

Franklin Community Pool Plans: The pool will open on July 1st with hours still TBA. We seek qualified lifeguards and a second Water Safety Instructor to ensure pool safety. Please contact Pool Director Joanna Banks at jbanksrec@gmail.com if interested or if you can recommend a candidate. We plan to continue with the popular swimming lessons for kids and adults, and water aerobics classes this year. For sign up dates, watch for details at FCS and on Facebook. The pool is also available to plan a summer party for the kiddos at a reasonable cost of \$100 for 2 hours or \$150 for 3 hours, with up to 20 children participating. Stay tuned as Joanna Banks is sure to have additional events planned during the season.

New and Ongoing Projects

We are continuing with sidewalk repairs.

We will have lower Water Street repaired and regraded due to water runoff damage. Work should begin this spring. Water Street residents will receive a certified letter informing them about the work and timetable.

We continue to research funding options to update the water main on Main Street and upgrade water meters to more efficient models.

Other Key Dates and Reminders

Reminder: Call 911 if you have an emergency.

No Overnight Parking on Village Streets through April 1. When there is significant snowfall, please avoid parking on streets to enable full plowing of streets.

Annual Franklin Firehouse Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt is Sunday, March 29. Breakfast is from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Firehouse on 351 Main Street. The Easter Egg Hunt begins at noon in the Village Park on Main Street, across from the Firehouse.

Mowing and Shrub Control Season is May 1 through October 15. The law governing high grass, weed, and brush control is on the village website: villageoffranklinny.us.

Village Board Meetings occur on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 141 Water Street.

Mayor 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



SMALL, continued from Page 3



The author's husband Rich works in their vegetable garden.

to our beautiful pond every spring to mate, the males piled five deep on one exhausted female, streamers of eggs crisscrossing the pond like a spider's web—six weeks later providing a show of thousands of tiny black toads, jumping out of the water and making their way into the woods.

Our place was dotted with wild ground strawberries, blueberries, and brambled blackberries that were made into jelly. The little fruit orchard that we planted—each year we anxiously waited to see if a late frost would freeze the blossoms, which would mean no fruit that year. Even so, in the good years—how many pies did I make in those glory times?

And then, of course, there were the people of our town. Many had never met a Jewish person, yet we felt welcome in a place whose entry sign announced, "The churches of Franklin welcome you." The small-town folks kept Christ in Christmas, along with so many kind-spirited lessons in country life: cheerful repairs, and the lovely tradition of returning any plate you might have sent home with them coming right back filled with a gift of freshly baked cookies.

I would look out over those eight acres and think, "If we had any idea of all the work and

mystery involved in both fighting and loving that wild ecosystem, we would never have taken the plunge."

Imagine living some place with no locked doors, a place where everybody knows your name. Our neighbors immediately became family. Some have passed now, and some nearing ninety are still on their tractors, cross-country skiing, tending gardens, and staying prayerful and grateful for the lives they lead. We return each summer to visit our former home, transformed by a talented craftsman to live up to all the potential we could only have dreamed of. It is bittersweet, this yearly return to the place where I spent my happiest years, where my



A view of the house, pond, and flower beds



The author with neighbor Mary Lou Miller, at right

heart was most free—that hill of shared quiet wonder.

It's been six years since we aged out of the cold climate and the physical demands of that life, and I cannot think about it without tears, still trying to reconcile the raw loss with all that I gained.

Rose adds: "I started writing again after about 50 years and joined a creative writing group in my retirement community about two months ago. Now I am writing every day. This piece is my heart. It's about what Franklin gave me; like now, I could never talk about the loss without crying."



Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1954!



The Village Printer

- Business Cards
- Letterheads & Envelopes
- Rack Cards, Flyers & Folded Brochures
- Carbonless Forms
- Newsletters
- Booklets & Event Programs
- Menus
- Raffle & Event Tickets

- Save The Date Cards
- Invitations
- Custom Greeting Cards
- Personalized Gifts
- Custom Apparel
- Posters & Banners
- Auto Magnets & Decals
- Aluminum & Lawn Signs
- Design Services & More!

Contact Us For Your Next Project!

330 Pony Farm Road, Oneonta, NY 13820

Phone: 607-432-5259 ~ 800-333-7559

Email: sales@thevillageprinter.com



Franklin Farmers' Market, Winter Edition

Second Sundays of the month
November 2025 through April 2026
Save these dates: 11/9, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, and 4/12

Local meats & fish, seasonal produce, baked goods, honey, jams & jellies, maple syrup, smoked & fresh fish, soap & personal care, and more!

American Legion Post 1689, Outlet Valley
 Corner of Main & Institute streets, Village of Franklin



SERVICES

FREE SCRAP METAL PICKUP

ANYTHING METAL INCLUDING VEHICLES

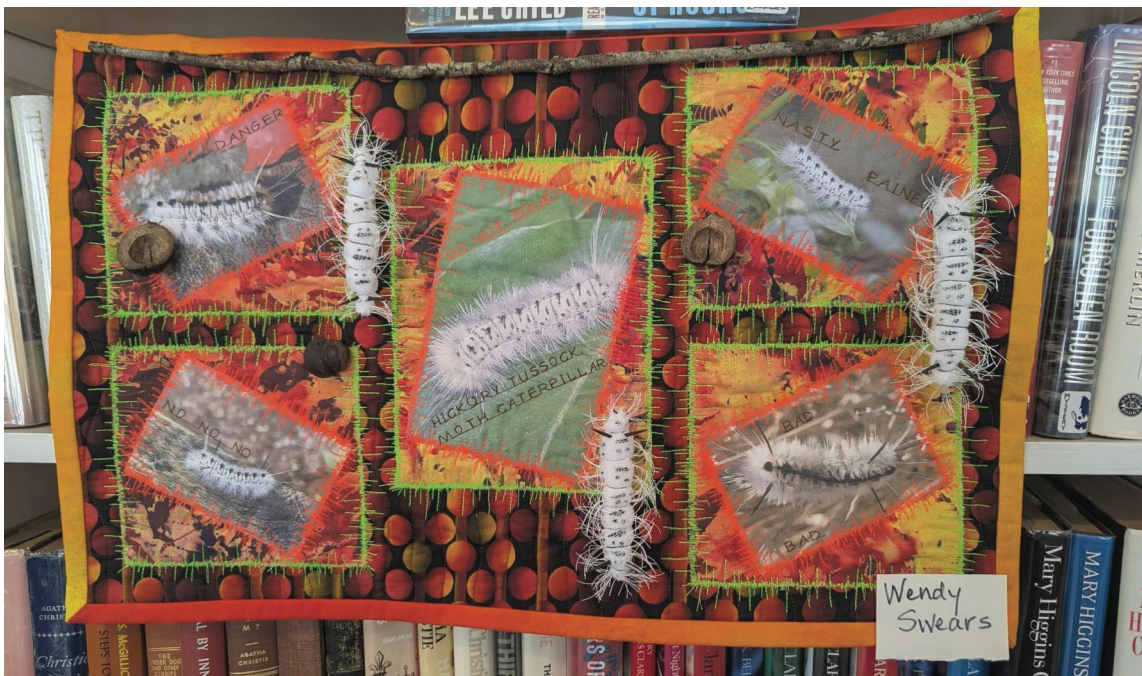
MINI EXCAVATOR SERVICE

WE ALSO SELL: TOPSOIL.MULCH.COMPOST.SAND.STONE.
DRIVEWAY MIX.FIREWOOD

SCOTT LENCI
4894 BASIN CLOVE RD.
HAMDEN, NY 13782

OFFICE 607.746.8319
CELL 607.435.8391
skippyservices@outlook.com

MORE FUN-A-DAY AT THE FRANKLIN LIBRARY!!



Quilt by Wendy Swears Photo by Julie Kiraly

By Carla Nordstrom

The Franklin Free Library celebrated the second annual Fun-A-Day Art Show on Saturday, March 14th. This program was introduced to Franklin last year by Adam Brady and Daniel Bertolino who learned about it when living in Philadelphia. Participants commit to doing something creative every day for the month of February. This year, the creative period was extended until the middle of March so that the artists were able to take a day off now and then. Approximately 20 Franklin artists, crafters, and artisans spent the month of February creating a variety of projects.

The exhibit included many different forms of art and handicrafts, including colorful quilted projects by Wendy Swears, portraits by Mary Helen Epps, and origami



Art work by Anonymous Photo by Julie Kiraly



Masks by Zilia VanEssendelft Photo by Daniel Bertolino

figures by Daniel Bertolino. Roland Gray not only created art projects about dinosaurs, but showed up as Godzilla wearing a mask that he made from paper mâché. Sixth grader Zilia VanEssendelft created five animal masks: a coyote, a serval, and three domestic cats. She said, "It takes me two to three hours to make each mask." Zilia builds noses and ears onto a base plate, and covers them with felt. "Painting them is my favorite part."

Bold colors were everywhere throughout the library with Marjorie Banks' decorative discs, Courtney Navojosky's collection of homemade bags, and Shana VanEssendelft's small drawings of cats. Pam Peters used photographs and words to describe the daily events of preparing

for a trip, visiting Germany, and returning to Franklin.

Franklin librarian Xina Sheehan crocheted a light blue dinosaur with an embroidered blankie. She is a true advocate for the Fun-A-Day project. She not only helped set up the displays, but arranged for a gorgeous snack table with donated delicious goodies, and encouraged many in Franklin to spend a month being creative. Yes, the Franklin Free Library has an excellent collection of books, audiobooks, videos, and educational programs, but it is also a center of fun and community building.



Art work by Mary Helen Epps Photo by Daniel Bertolino

TREADWELL, continued from Page 6

However, the state granting process is not a cakewalk either.

The town board has twice applied for a drinking water grant from the NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. Both in 2024 and 2025, applications were judged as incomplete. EFC sent letters of notice of an incomplete application to the town, advising that only one or two supporting documents were missing. For the 2024 application, the town was given a week to file the missing documents for this project (number 19847), but it did not. For the 2025 application, no grace period was allowed. Residents were not informed how these two grant cycles had been squandered.

Those letters encouraged Franklin to reapply. EFC will provide a point of contact who can answer questions about the requested materials and application process. Also, Community Assistance Teams are available to provide hands-on, no-cost support to help municipalities navigate the application process and strengthen their submissions.

Another problem is the

required listing and rating of the Treadwell Water District Improvements Project for the State Revolving Fund. It was assigned only 55 points, just below the cutoff for even a low-interest loan. What is more, the hamlet was not rated as a Disadvantaged Community, which would make the grant a priority and the no-interest loan a possibility. A DAC is rated by the Department of Health, which requires that the median household income be less than \$67,662, which is 80% of the regionally adjusted MHI. The Treadwell postal district 13846, which is larger than the Treadwell water district, has a MHI of about \$57,000 by one measure. How is the hamlet not a DAC? The deadline to revise filing with DOH is the end of May. This was missed last year.

The town board has made efforts to find the necessary funding for the water district but have fallen short each time. Typically DOH releases SRF rankings of water projects in October, and EFC announces WIIA awards in December. Will the TWD improvements project be in contention this time?

KENNETH L.
BENNETT
FUNERAL HOME

425 MAIN STREET
FRANKLIN, NY 13776

607-829-2272

UPLIFT, continued from Page 6

be in the NFR's summer issue.

The Uplift Collective, founded over 20 years ago and known then as the Sidney Center Improvement Group, has seen so many significant projects envisioned and realized for our hamlet and the surrounding area. The present mission statement sums it up this way:

The Collective's mission builds on almost 20 years of providing healthy, community-focused events, programming, and projects. Additionally, the Collective's objective is to bring joy, comfort, and positive experiences to children and families of children who are facing or have faced a significant health crisis. The Uplift Collective also advocates for and acts in support of a healthy environment relating to clean water, air, and food.

We look forward to seeing folks in the upcoming months enjoying visits to Baker Street Park, either for an event or simply to enjoy a day of fun in Sidney Center's beautiful surroundings!

NOTE: See article on Page 5 re: fundraising for the Franklin Rec. Commission

Franklin Recreation Commission – SPONSOR REGISTRATION FORM

Please send completed sponsorship registration form with your payment by or before Friday, April 17, 2026, to: Village of Franklin Recreation Commission, 141 Water Street, PO Box 886, Franklin, NY 13775. Please make check payable to Franklin Recreation Commission.

Sponsorship (check one):	Amount:
_____ Platinum Sponsor (\$300)	\$ _____
_____ Gold Sponsor (\$200+)	\$ _____
_____ Silver Sponsor (\$100+)	\$ _____

Name of business, organization or individual as you would like it to appear:

Primary Phone Contact Name and Number:

Secondary Phone Contact Name and Number:

Business, Organization or Individual Email Address:

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

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

We desperately need a Circulation Manager to handle the distribution of the spring, summer and fall hard-copy issues of the newspaper.

Responsibilities include picking up fifty to sixty bundles of fifty papers each from our printer in Norwich, arranging the pre-paid EDDM postage, printing out labels for each bundle, and mailing the bundles at the Franklin, Oneonta, and Sidney Center post offices, as well as distributing loose copies to selected locations in Franklin and surrounding towns. (Note: this task cannot be accomplished remotely.)

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

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

Opportunities To Volunteer In Franklin:

1. DRIVERS FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS:

A volunteer medical transportation program always looking for volunteer drivers. This VERY important program is VERY short of drivers. Reimbursement of expenses / you decide ride & day

Contact:
John (Jack) Salo
Driver Recruitment Coordinator
Volunteer Transportation Service
A program of the Rural Health Network of SCNY
Phone: (607) 743-0120
E-mail: jsalo@rhnscny.org
455 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13904

2. THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING

(607) 832-5750
Clerical - office assistance - answering phones, data entry, stuffing envelopes etc. (whatever you're comfortable helping with)
Caregiver Respite
Dining Centers - both congregate and home delivered
Help with Large Events

3. VOLUNTEER IN FRANKLIN - retired teachers

needed for free tutoring at the Franklin Library
Contact Lillian de Mauro:
lilliandem@gmail.com

4. SIGN UP FOR RIDESHARE

<https://groups.io/g/FranklinNYRideshare>

Group Email Addresses:
Post: FranklinNYRideshare@groups.io
Subscribe: FranklinNYRideshare+subscribe@groups.io
Unsubscribe: FranklinNYRideshare+unsubscribe@groups.io
Group Owner: FranklinNYRideshare+owner@groups.io
Help: FranklinNYRideshare+help@groups.io

Once someone is subscribed to FranklinNY-Rideshare, they can offer or ask for a ride by going to the site and on the upper left hand corner of the menu hit 'note' - or an easier way - once the address is in your email simply go to FranklinNYRideshare and send an offer or request - everyone on the list will receive it - please respond only to the person you find yourself connected to rather than the entire group.

TAX, continued from Page 4

The strategy is to file for many SCARs in hopes that the hearing officer will choose a compromise settlement. Lawyers gaming the system, spending little to make numerous representations at such hearings, looking for the occasional payoff. During the pandemic, the Unified Court System enabled remote hearings. Therefore, attorneys do not have to leave their office, working entirely through phone calls, emails, and video-conferences. Representing on

contingency, Aventine charges \$30 for the filing and \$75 for an assessment only if the landowners achieve their reassessment.

What is the track record for Aventine in Franklin? In the last few years, five property owners signed contracts with the company, but only one of them received a reduction. Two owners in 2023, Alessi and Mudassar, received judgements of no change from the hearing officer. Two in 2025, Katakaldies and Leland, reached

stipulations of no change between themselves and the assessor. Only the third in 2025, McGovern, received a judgement of reduction from \$325,000 to \$290,000 or to 89%.

To stanch the flow, several towns in Westchester now require that a landowner or representative appear in person at hearings before the local BAR and that they provide specific documentation of their claims, including interior and exterior photographs, copies of

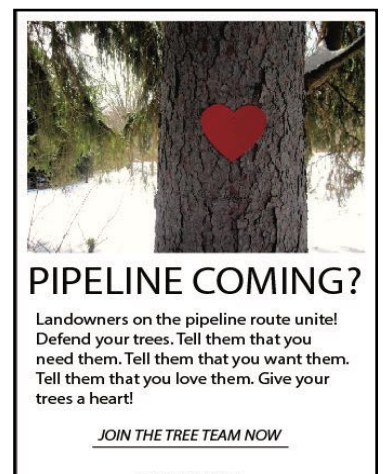
fire insurance policies, and comparable sales – just submitting a form will not suffice.

Regardless of reductions for individuals, the Franklin community as a whole will pay the full tax levy, which for this year is \$1.46 million.

Note: In the summer issue, reporting of recent assessment appeals will continue with tax certiorari lawsuits.

**Franklin Assessment Reductions 2022 to 2025
Real Property, Small Claims Assessment Review**

Landowner	Domicile	Address	Acres	Assessments, \$1,000					
				Assessed	Requested	Result	Assessed	Requested	Result
John Alessi	Resident	885 Main St	7.8	\$233	\$38	16%	\$233	100%	
Mohammad Mudassar	Non-Res.	1013 Campbell Rd	5.8	\$170	\$18	11%	\$170	100%	
Anastasios Katalalides	Non-Res.	2050 Carey Rd	60.9	\$388	\$291	75%	\$388	100%	
Laura Leale	Resident	2059 Sherman Hill Rd	10.8	\$124	\$93	75%	\$124	100%	
Philip MCGovern	Non-Res.	6446 E. Handsome Bk Rd	37.6	\$ 325	\$244	75%	\$290	89%	





Artwork by Diana Hall

FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET

Sundays 10-2

Memorial Day to Columbus Day
at Chapel Hall on Institute Street in Franklin

THE 2026 FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET POSTER

Ceramic artwork by Diana Hall

Poster design by Helen McLean



THE STAGECOACH RUN ART FESTIVAL

JULY 11 & 12, 2026
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JOIN US FOR OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS - APPLY BY APRIL 7

Previously exhibited? New to Stagecoach?

ALL new and returning artists must apply by April 7 to be included in our artist map and brochure.

FEES & APPLICATION TIMELINE:

- GET ON THE MAP! APPLY BY MIDNIGHT, APRIL 7
- REGULAR APPLICATION FEE: \$75 BY APRIL 7
- EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED FEE: \$60 BY MARCH 31

CONTACT: info@stagecoachrun.com



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 of the Franklin Farmers' Market, is a not-for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents.

Our mission statement: to work to preserve the rural character of Franklin, to build the local economy, to encourage volunteerism, and to raise awareness of economic and social challenges that may result from climate change and the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.

We generally meet once a month, at 7 P.M.; the date and location are 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
- Goods exchange
- 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

Printed in Norwich NY by Sun Printing, Inc.

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

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.	PRICE	SELLER	BUYER
07/25/25	44 Heathen Hill Rd	8.80	1 Family Res	155,000	415,000	Ohman, David	Quinn, Brian
09/19/25	11525 State Hwy 357	1.00	1 Family Res	105,000	265,000	Lois C Brandow Ir. Trust	Cirincione, Sandra
09/24/25	Pomeroy Rd	261.00	Rural Vac>10	126,000	523,000	Wallace, Michael S	Klass, Elliot
10/01/25	25 Stewart Rd	3.33	1 Family Res	115,000	115,000	Romano, Noel E	95 Stewart LLC (RC)
10/02/25	560 Hodge Rd	0.52	1 Family Res	71,000	58,750	Bedford, Nancy E	Jones, Sierra Kathryn (R)
10/21/25	535 Grange Hall Rd	29.94	Multiple Res	338,000	700,000	Marren, Peter	Storey, Duncan
11/22/25	State Hwy 357	1.00	Rural Vac<10	6,000	3,660	Fiorello, Joseph M	Gokce Capital LLC
12/23/25	1669 Ed Klug Rd	90.87	Rural Res	300,000	625,000	Smith, Thomas R	Taggart, Patricia
12/29/25	110 Tara Ln	4.90	1 Family Res	32,000	45,000	Manda, Victor	Wonderly, Kelly
01/14/26	3388 Freer Hollow Rd	5.12	1 Family Res	180,000	320,000	Ray, James	Pakosz, Bohdan
01/16/26	70 Case Hill Rd	0.57	1 Family Res	175,000	320,000	Shea, Michael P	Cooke, Matthew D
01/22/26	3776 E Handsome Bk Rd (2)	59.10	Rural Res	90,000	450,500	Rosania, Theodore	McNamara, Julia
01/27/26	County Hwy 14 (3)	27.32	Rural Vac>10	30,000	61,000	Bucci, Michael G	Landpenguin Inc

(#) # Parcels

(RC) Related Company

(R) Relatives

Nichols Pond Insurance Agency

JOHN NICHOLS, CPCU, LUTCF, ARc
121 Delaware Street
Walton, NY 13856-0210

pcinsurance@frontiernet.net

607-865-4666

SUSQUEHANNA LANDSCAPING LLC

607-226-1970



Landscape Design
Field Stone Walls • Wall Repair
Stone Walkways • Hedge Trimming
Fruit Tree Pruning • Tree Planting-Mulch

susquehannalandsapingllc.com

Fully Insured