The NEW Franklin Register.

The Newspaper of Franklin Local

Vol. XX, No. 2 Franklin, New York **SUMMER 2026**

'INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE'

FRACKING FRACAS

Sidney Mineral-rights Owners Dispute Ban

By Brian Brock

In April of this year, a lawsuit was filed to overturn the state-wide ban on high-volume hydraulic fracturing, aka HVHF or fracking. In the U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York, the case number is 3:26-CV-0736. This complaint raises an interesting point of law on illegal taking by government, but it is weak in its facts.

The plaintiffs are Madison Woodward III and his son Thomas Madison Woodward who own the mineral rights for a property at 1650 State Highway 357, Sidney NY. The defendants are three New York State officials: Amanda Lefton, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation; Catherine Dickert, Director of the Division of Mineral Resources; and Letitia James, Attorney General, later amended to include Governor Kathy Hochul.

In 2015, DEC ended its years-long drafting of a supplementary generic environmental statement on HVHF. That finding states: "Here, the No-Action alternative is the only alternative that meets the SEQRA legal mandate because authorizing high-volume hydraulic fracturing under any scenario would not adequately mitigate adverse impacts." The Woodwards claim that this regulatory prohibition on HVHF, which was later codified into law, has impoverished them.

Woodward Senior had a career in the exploration and production of oil and gas. Most recently, he served as Director of Geosciences at W&T Offshore, Inc., where he led E&P efforts in the Gulf of Mexico Shelf and Deep Water. He retired from W&T in 2025 and is now a consultant in Houston. The Woodwards contend that they purchased

FRACAS, continued on Page 8

TOWN BOARD TERMS

Changing the limits?

Staff Report

Currently, the voting for town officials is being shifted from odd-numbered years to even-numbered ones as a result of a state law passed last year. This year will be the first time regular town elections will be held in an even-numbered year, 2026. At some point, each official will serve a term shortened by one year to make this shift. Because of staggered terms of offices, this shifting will continue until 2030. Some voters are confused.

Elected officials of the Town of Franklin currently hold office for two-year terms except for council members. Some of these officials could see an additional shift from two to four-year terms as the result of laws passed by the town board in June. Confusion multiplied. Motions were made just days before the deadline of 150 days before the balloting of November 3rd.

Two questions will be on the November ballot for the doubling of the terms of office for the town clerk and the highway superintendent. A public hearing on the topic was held before the June town board meeting in Treadwell. Only

See LIMITS, con't on Page 17

THE NFR IS TWENTY!



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Congratulations to our sister organization, FRANKLIN FARMERS' MARKET, also 20 years young!

THE ABCs OF VOTING

Part 2

By Carla Nordstrom

When I first suggested a three-part series on voting, I wasn't sure what I would write about for Part 2. The paper will come out after the primary and at a benign time in an election year before the final Labor Day campaign push.

What was I thinking…?

But it turns out that 2026 is a year unlike any other. Election rules, standards, and norms are being burst asunder in a flash of mid-decade shenanigans.

Traditionally, voting is a serious and regular process, so bland that many eligible voters don't bother to participate. For instance, in the 2024 election, 73.6% of citizens over 18 were registered, but only 65.3% voted. Voting during a Presidential election always has a higher turnout. In 2022, a midterm election, 52.2% of eligible citizens voted. As we approach this midterm election, it is possible that half the eligible voting population will choose to sit it out and not vote.

First thing to know is that elections are held by and managed by the individual states, based on the U. S. Constitution. Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 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 [sic] Senators."

When the Constitution

See VOTING, continued on Page 17

HOMETOWN HEROES

By Suzanne Patrick

Photos by the author



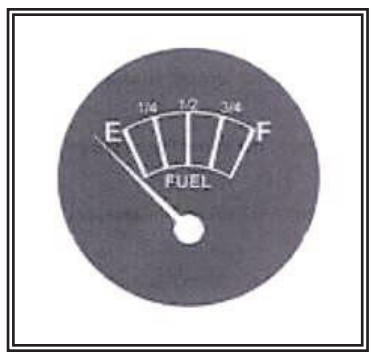
The community of Sidney Center came together recently to honor our fallen heroes. The Maywood Historical Depot, the Sidney Center Fire District, and the Sidney Center Fire Department all worked together to have the banners ordered, funded, and hung. Many thanks to Delhi Telephone Company for helping ensure the first banners were installed before Memorial Day.

The Sidney Center Fire Department and the Sidney Center Fire District generously paid for the brackets used for all of the banners.

The Maywood Historical Depot sponsored the banners honoring the "Sidney Center Seven." These seven young men lost their lives within weeks of each other during the Tet Offensive during the winter of 1968 in Vietnam.

Banners can still be ordered by contacting Shawn Patrick at 607-369-4817 or emailing Sidneycenterheroproject@gmail.com. The banners are $100 each.





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Your Neighbor's View...

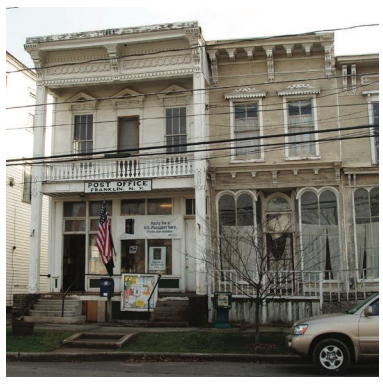
To the Editor:

I came to Delaware County in 2018, and I hope to be here for the rest of my life. I have seen it as a newcomer, as a business owner, and as someone who would love to open a bookshop in the village. I have questions.

I have hesitated to ask because I know how some people will respond. But I want to understand.

We have a lot of empty buildings, a few derelict ones, and absolutely zero affordable options for retail space. The city of Oneonta actually fines owners if their houses sit empty without showing that they are either in construction or actively for sale.

Why don't we?



We have a spacious, village center, former auto garage that was sold to an LLC and now sits empty. It could be a market. It is big enough to house a variety of businesses and has the parking to handle it. It's not available.

There is a former funeral home that is owned by a corporation in Texas. An Oneonta funeral home now hosts funerals it once handled. It appears to be unused.

There are any number of homes in the village that are empty – either because of financial issues or something else. And given the village's lack of zoning, any one of them, or all of them, could be retail space. Of the other few empty retail spaces, either the rents are prohibitive for a small business or they are not available. And that sad, beautiful wreck next to the post office may have a future, but for years it has been a dangerous eyesore in the center of the village. And we've tolerated it.

So why doesn't the village do something to force things to change? Without a lively business district, Franklin misses out on visitor dollars as well as residental newcomers with children who could enroll in our school. We lose seniors. We lose, period.

Franklin has so much to offer. With some energy and some imagination, combined with the will to do it, we could be so much more. We are missing out on all the variety we could have, if we only created the space.

Do not tell me our area can't support new local businesses. Dollar General thought it could survive here. Visitors come to the Catskills specifically looking for villages that offer unique local businesses. And we made a start, with the existing shops that may not draw local buyers, but DO attract visitors.

This is NOT just about tourism. We need to offer our full-time, long-term residents an alternative to Oneonta when they want one. Gas prices are skyrocketing. Some older folks (myself included) would love to drive over the mountain less often. And some simply can't drive, so they worry they might have to leave.

Former businesses have proven that Franklin loves to gather for coffee and a chat in a business that welcomes locals. We supported good breakfast and lunch places when we had them. We have people who live here full-time who wish for these kinds of businesses, and we have other people who'd love to provide them.

If we open more shops, even with our limited stock of buildings, we create a village that can offer the staples the residents need and a variety of shops that visitors could enjoy. A village that, once again, has a busy business district, no matter how small in scale.

Until we do something to change, nothing changes.

Susan Barnett
Franklin NY

At right, see update about available commercial space in the village.



To the Editor:

I have something unfashionable to say. A farm is not a pastoral mood board. It is a business with weather exposure, biological exposure, labor exposure, capital exposure, and the sort of margin profile that can turn a grown adult into a philosopher against his will.

Those are the strange economics of keeping a farm alive today. You may have beautiful land, healthy bushes, a decent harvest window, and a reasonably intact spirit. Then fuel climbs, travel demand gets weird, inflation bites, labor remains expensive, and the crop itself still does not care about your spreadsheet. Blueberries are still the point. But blueberries alone are rarely enough to keep the place standing.

The part that outsiders often miss is that diversification is not a lifestyle flourish. It is a survival mechanism. If one revenue stream gets squeezed, there has to be another one ready to catch some of the weight.

That is where the domes come in. Not as a betrayal of farming, but as an argument with arithmetic. If the berries alone are not enough, then the land has to work in more than one language. It has to produce fruit, yes, but also overnight stays, events, experiences, and reasons for people to drive out of the city and hand their money to a place that is still trying to grow something real.

This is what small farms have increasingly been forced to become: part agriculture, part hospitality, part event venue, part nervous breakdown with a website. There is something absurd about this. We built an economy in which the people producing food now need to become innkeepers, marketers, content creators, and experience designers just to keep the gates from sagging. The modern farm has to sell berries, yes, but also beauty, calm, memory, access, atmosphere, and the increasingly rare chance to sit somewhere without being psychologically mugged by a notification.

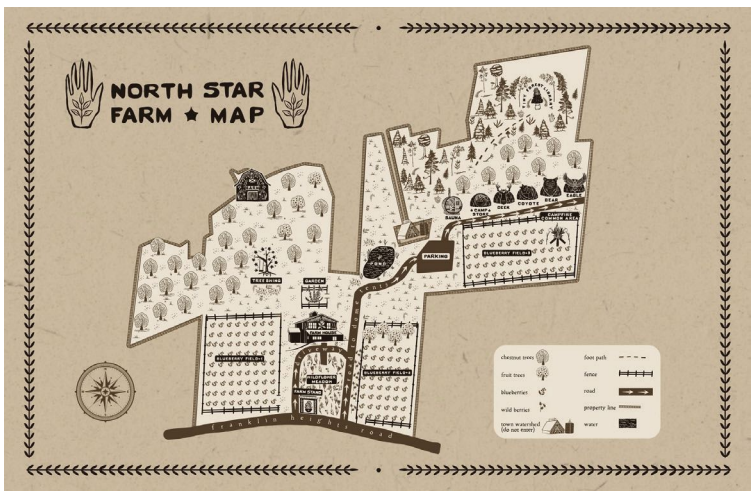
And yes, there is now another revenue stream: Substack subscriptions. Equally strange and necessary. Apparently, keeping a farm alive now includes writing satire and hoping enough people decide that supporting sheep-based media analysis counts as a legitimate agricultural activity. Not exactly the old model of agriculture, but the old model increasingly appears to have been a luxury reserved for a country that no longer exists. And so, the farm adapts. It grows fruit. It hosts people. It writes. It improvises. It tries to stay alive without becoming dishonest about what survival now requires.

And by the way, purely in the spirit of economic education and not at all as a subtle suggestion, those paid subscriptions do help support the farm.

Wink, wink.

In all honesty,
Justin Kamm

Justin Kamm owns North Star Farm on Franklin Heights Road in Franklin. In his spare time, he writes a free Substack, "The Daily Pasture", from which this letter was taken.



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

UPDATE: The vacant storefront half of 438A Main Street, Franklin, is for sale for $495k. It includes a one BR apt and a 750 sq.ft. art studio space, both currently rented, as well as 1750 sq.ft. of retail space on the first floor.

The New Franklin Register
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https://franklinlocal.org/nfr-all/



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FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events
Local Issues
Local Concerns



TAX TAKE-BACKS

Part II: Tax Certiorari

By Brian Brock

This year during a January meeting, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution No. 25 for the reduction of assessed values of seven large properties in Franklin. Also, it refunded the landowners a total of $18,987 for the last few years from our county treasury. These adjustments to the tax rolls followed from orders handed-down by the Delaware County Supreme Court and were reviewed by Real Property Tax Service Agency.

Likewise, those landowners were owed thousands of dollars in refunds from the other defendants: the Delaware Academy Central School District (about $50K), the Town of Franklin (about $20K), and Franklin Central School District. For those four years, total property-tax levy for our town ranged from $1.26 to $1.42 million annually. A reduction of $5000 in each of those four annual revenues is less than half a percent of the total tax revenues for Franklin. Also, defendants agreed to pay attorneys' fees of several thousand dollars, an unusual concession in a settlement.

This article is the second in a series on appealing of assessments through the court system. To be eligible, the landowner must first have had an administrative review through the town grievance process. In our spring issue, the first part described the Small Claims Assessment Review. The fee for this SCAR costs only some tens of dollars, and requires that you make your case before a hearing officer. However, there are restrictions to this judicial process. Properties must be small and either residential or vacant. Refunds are not available.

The alternative is a tax certiorari lawsuit which could ultimately be tried before a judge. *Certiorari* refers to a review of the facts by a higher authority. The word is from law Latin, meaning to be more fully informed. Such lawsuits are also known as an Article 7 proceedings. The applicable section of NYS Real Property Tax Law was revised years ago, and a writ of certiorari is no longer required.

Costs of this judicial review can be substantial. While you may represent yourself, the law and procedures are complex and arcane. Services of an attorney do not come cheap. In addition, the preparation of the required assessment report and expert testimony can run into thousands of dollars.

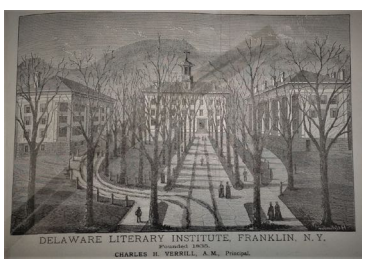
In court, assessment by the town is presumed to be correct and the landowner has the burden to prove otherwise. However, the courts have held that proof need

See TAXES, continued on Page 16

OLD STONE HALL
2026

Staff Report

Old Stone Hall (OSH) has stood at the head of Institute Street for nigh on to 170 years. It was the first of three building of the Delaware Literary Institute, a prestigious finishing school for ministers and teachers in the latter half of the 19th century. DLI closed in 1902 due to competition from state colleges, and then these buildings and grounds were transferred



to the public school district. For decades, it was used for classes, particularly during repairs to the main building after the fire in 1969. Eventually, New York State advised that it was unsafe for students. For a time, the upstairs was used as the community museum, until the opening of the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum on Main Street. Since then, it has been used for storage.

On January 23rd of this year, a public work session was held on the restoration and use of OSH by members of the Franklin Central School District and the Stone Hall Committee. The plan is to stabilize the building and eventually open it to the community. Fundraising for a similar repair project in the 1970s was the origin of Old Franklin Day.

The footprint of OSH is 42' by 93', and it stands three stories tall, topped by a cupola. A member of the committee presented current plans for its rehabilitation. The existing roof will be removed and replaced by a standing-seam metal roof for $216K, and any damage to the woodwork on the eaves and the cupola base will be repaired for $25K. Water infiltration can destroy a structure. In addition, two new front doors will be installed for $56K, as well as several new windows for $146K. Private funding has been committed to the project, costing an estimated $530K,

See OSH, con't on Page 17

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Editor's Note: 2026 is also the 20th anniversary of the founding of the ***Franklin Farmers' Market****, the NFR's sister organization within Franklin Local. This fall will see the retirement of the Market's long-time manager, Trish Tyrell, as she moves on to her next grand challenge in life. Below, she reflects on her time with the Market, its history, and the need for someone to take her place.*

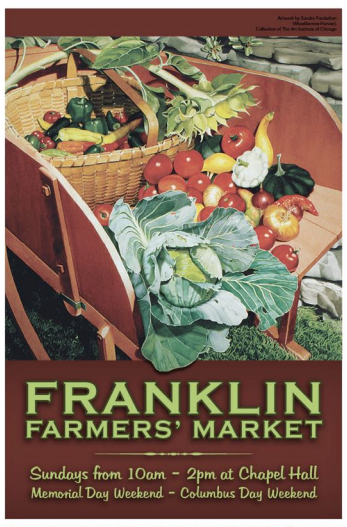
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

New market manager needed!

By Trish Tyrell

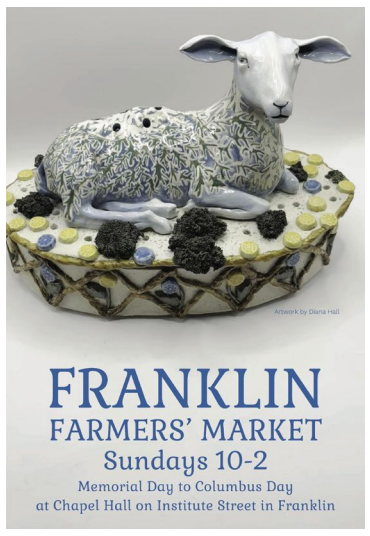
A fortunate feature for Franklin, the Franklin Farmers' Market has been a hub for business and community for the past 20 years. Over this time, the market has had only two managers: Ellen Curtis, a founder and manager for 11years, and myself, now in my ninth and final year.

I can remember first finding out about the market and being so excited that such a thing existed in my hometown. After being a customer for a while, I began to help out. After consistently helping out for a while, I made a five-year commitment to be market manager in the wake of Ellen's retirement. Nine years later, it's time for me to "retire" too.



The next manager of the Franklin Farmers' Market (FFM) will inherit an extensive support system. Throughout the past 20 years, dozens of volunteers have dedicated hours and years to the various functions crucial to the market's maintenance and longevity. An entire team is available to assist with marketing, planning, poster management, set up/break down, and refreshment tending.

A job description for the market manager's role would include duties such as managing market vendors (recruitment, communication, attendance, paperwork, and fee collection), review and maintenance of the Market Policy Manual, purchase of market consumables and supplies, financial record keeping and reporting, FaceBook posting, poster sales, market set up/break down, and customer service. Grant writing is optional. Community engagement and participation is essential.



Like all jobs within Franklin Local, managing the Market is unpaid, a labor of love. But it yields many benefits, both for the manager and the community at large. For the manager, there is the reward of service to our community by way of food availability and support of the local economy. For the community at large, the market provides the opportunity to buy and sell local goods, a draw for visitors and ramblers, and the ability for the customer to become as close as one can to their food source without producing it themselves. And, quite simply, the FFM brings the community together in one place, every summer Sunday.

Have you been looking for an exciting new project? For a special way to give back to the town you love? For the next market manager, the role could be the chance to build community, experience it more deeply, and grow the Franklin Farmers' Market in new and innovative ways.

INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

VINTAGE VS. MODERN

What's your style?

I am an old house lover. Before I sold real estate, I used to ~~trespass~~ explore abandoned old houses, dreaming of what I'd do if they were mine. Real estate was the obvious next step.

That longing for an old house of my own lured me from a perfectly okay life in a perfectly okay suburban ranch to a new start on a windswept hillside in a creaking farmhouse in Delaware County.

When my clients tell me they "love old houses," I see that "and there's nothing I can do about it" shrug that comes along with it.

Is it sensible? Probably not. But people like me? We can justify ourselves.

Vintage homes are built with vintage wood – a stronger, denser material prized for its durability. Vintage homes are full of craftsmanship – from ornate door hinges to over-the-top layered casings around every door and window. Stunning old wide-board pine floors or solid oak planks. Vintage homes have character. History. Personality. A story. They give the people in them a sense of continuity.

The ranch I lived in before moving to Franklin was fine. But I'd lived in old houses. I saw the difference. The doors in our ranch were hollow-core. The woodwork was simple, off-the-shelf pine. Finding stock pine floors under vinyl rivaled Christmas morning for excitement. Ceilings were an acceptable height, but nothing inspiring. And the basement? It was accessed by a hole in the laundry room floor, and featured a head bashing four-foot height.

I swore that, if we ever moved, we would have high ceilings, original details, and most important of all, a basement with high ceilings. Fortune chuckled at my confidence.

This farmhouse had been bullied into this century. It had dropped ceilings in every room. A prior owner replaced all the doors with hollow-core and covered the walls with paneling. They covered the floors with plywood and carpet. I've been pulling it apart for eight years, trying for how it was when it was built over a hundred years ago. It's getting there.

One thing I cannot fix. The basement ceiling is only five and a half feet from the ground. I've smashed my head on ductwork more times than I can count.

But my house has history, along with sloping floors that need shims under the beds to get them level. It has stories. I love it and I am convinced it loves me. It also needs constant attention, like a neurotic dog. The roof had to be replaced. The well pump was shot. The water heater died. One of the two furnaces, neither of which truly heats the house, is held together with duct tape. Replacement windows, predictably, need replacing. I fear the septic's next.

But I've seen enough newer houses to know that doesn't necessarily mean you can avoid these issues by buying something built after you were born. I have a client, now a friend, who has been slowly repairing or replacing just about everything in their newer "new" house. The walls, the floors, the bathrooms, the kitchen – everything needs work, and very little of it is quality material worth saving. It may have level floors, but it doesn't have the rock-solid feel that my crooked house offers.

It also has aging systems – furnaces and hot water heaters that may be reaching the end of their time on Earth. Thirty years goes by fast, and that's generally the best you can hope for from such things.

What that newer house does have are high ceilings in some rooms. It has lots of windows and modern sliding glass doors. It has a basement that a tall person can stand up in, and extra rooms there. It has an electrical system put in after Tesla and Edison were alive.

Vintage homes, we assume, will have vintage charm. My house is proof that may be wrong. It's going to take work to bring that back. But it was there once upon a time. I am confident.

Newer homes, we assume, will need less work. If your newer home is more than thirty years old, that may not be true.

In the end, you just have to know what kind of person you are and be okay with it. Some people are modern-house people. Some are not. We all will pay the bills that come with owning a home. The payoff is living in a place that *feels* like home. Like *your* home.



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SUMMER IN FRANKLIN

Celebrating Community Through Tourism

By Sophia Picco

As summer arrives in Delaware County, communities across the Great Western Catskills welcome visitors seeking a slower pace, authentic experiences, and a connection to the landscapes and people that make this region desirable. Franklin is one of those places.

As a tourism director, I often hear travelers say they are looking for destinations that feel genuine, places where local businesses know their customers, where community events bring people together, and where the surrounding countryside is a major part of the experience. Franklin embodies those qualities.

Tourism development in a rural community is not simply about attracting more visitors. It is about creating opportunities that benefit residents, strengthen local businesses, and preserve the character that makes a place worth visiting in the first place. In Franklin, that means supporting the farms, shops, artists, restaurants, lodging properties, and community organizations that contribute to the local economy and quality of life.

Summer provides a unique opportunity to showcase all that Franklin has to offer. Visitors can spend a day exploring, discovering local shops, farmstands, and galleries, enjoying a meal at The Tulip and The Rose, or taking a scenic drive through the rolling hills and valleys that define this part of the Catskills. They may come for a weekend getaway but often leave with a deeper appreciation for the community, and a desire to return.

Events play an important role in this experience. Community gatherings, farmers markets, performing arts, and seasonal celebrations help create meaningful connections between visitors and residents. This year, we celebrate thirty years of The Franklin Stage Company and the Stagecoach Run Art Festival, a tremendous milestone for both. It's also the 20th anniversary of the Franklin Farmers' Market, as well as for its sister-organization, this publication. These experiences encourage travelers to engage with the community rather than simply pass through it. For local businesses, special events provide valuable opportunities to welcome new customers and generate economic activity during the peak tourism season.

At the same time, thoughtful tourism development requires stewardship. Franklin's appeal lies in its rural character, historic charm, and natural beauty. Protecting these assets is essential to ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same sense of place that attracts visitors today. This means encouraging responsible recreation, supporting local conservation efforts, and promoting experiences that respect both the environment and the community.

One of the greatest strengths of tourism in Franklin is its ability to tell the story of the people who live and work there. Visitors are increasingly interested in meeting local makers, learning about agricultural traditions, discovering regional history, and supporting independently owned businesses. These connections create memories that are far more meaningful than simply checking destinations off a list. Visitors are no longer just collecting souvenirs, but memories of how a place made them feel, and experiencing a different version of themselves.

The summer season also highlights the importance of collaboration. Successful tourism development depends on partnerships between businesses, local government, community organizations, and residents. When communities work together to create welcoming experiences, improve visitor information, enhance public spaces, and celebrate local culture, everyone benefits.

Franklin may not be the largest destination in the Catskills, but its strength lies in its authenticity. Visitors are drawn to places that feel real, and Franklin offers exactly that: a welcoming community, beautiful surroundings, and opportunities to experience the best of rural New York.

As we look ahead to another summer season, our goal remains the same, to encourage visitors to discover Franklin, support local businesses, and experience the community in a way that respects and enhances what makes it special. Tourism, when thoughtfully developed, is about more than attracting visitors. It is about investing in the places we love and creating lasting benefits for the people who call them home.

This summer, Franklin offers an invitation to slow down, explore, and experience the heart of the Great Western Catskills, one small-town moment at a time.

Sophia Picco is an Economic Development Specialist for Delaware County.

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2026 ALL-CLASS REUNION

By Connie Martin

The game is afoot! The Franklin Central School Alumni Dinner Committee is finalizing plans to celebrate the annual FSC All-Class Reunion. Formerly known as the Alumni Banquet and held closer to high school graduation in June, this year's reunion is on Saturday, August 29, on Old Franklin Day. Mark your calendars!

FCS alumni will get together from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Socializing with soft drinks, BYOB and snacks will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. A sit-down catered barbecue dinner, catered by the O at 112 in Otego, will follow at 5:30 p.m.

There will also be a special reunion celebration dessert, and a guest speaker. BYOB is approved on the event premises. Festivities will take place under the big tent on the lawn of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 307 Main Street in Franklin. .

The Alumni Dinner Committee members are: Janet Branigan, President; Eileen Donnel, Secretary; Sonja Johns, Treasurer; and members Katherine Bouton, Kelly Cramatte, Connie Martin, Jeff McCormack, and Bob Wisse.

President Janet Branigan said, "What better time to hold our reunion than on Old Franklin Day? Many FCS alumni will already be in town. We're just expanding the festivities with a delicious dinner and lots of old friends reminiscing!"

Eileen Donnel, Secretary, added that the barbecue offers "a more casual vibe. The reunion is always a wonderful experience and a chance to catch up with old friends. We're looking forward to having even more alumni join us this year!"

FCS alumni from any graduating year, along with their guests, are invited to attend, along with FCS faculty. This year, special FCS alumni commemorative stemless wine glasses and pint glasses will be available for attendees to purchase and enjoy for $12 each. See photo below. Proceeds benefit the Alumni Picnic.

Watch for reunion updates on Facebook and in our community poster. For reservations and any questions, please contact Sonja Johns, Alumni Dinner Committee Treasurer, by August 15 at *kljohns@citlink.net* or 607-434-7120.

Tickets are $30 per alumni and $22 for spouses or guests.

Make checks payable to Franklin Alumni Association and send to: Franklin Alumni Association, 1403 Otego Road, Franklin, New York 13775.

We look forward to seeing you!



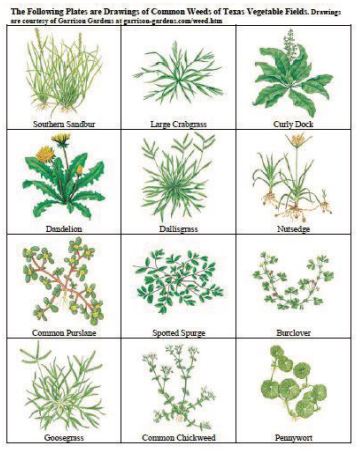
WORDS TO WEED BY

Every garden has weeds. In summer, ninety percent of my time is spent either weeding or thinking about what hasn't been weeded yet. You may say "oh, a weed is just a plant in the wrong place," but it's hard for me to imagine a place suitable for cocklebur and dock. And Sara Stein noted, "A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place, but intends to stay."

Spring is the ideal time to weed, when weeds are small and easy to hoe or pull. This assumes you can distinguish them from the emerging foliage of desirable plants. Even deep-rooted perennial weeds are easier to pull early in the season when the soil is moist and the roots' grip has been weakened by winter's freeze-thaw cycles.

However, I am usually busy planting new acquisitions, clearing out old stalks and yellowing bulb foliage, and tending my winter-sown seedlings. And pretending I have plenty of time to catch up on my weeding.

I finally turn my attention to weeding when someone plans to visit. My favorite tool is a Japanese hand weeder that has the blade on an angle. It slices through small weeds, and the slight curve at the back is useful for pulling on stubborn clumps. I also keep a spade handy for tackling deep roots and digging up grass. A padded mat for kneeling is also essential.



If you are short on time and want to spruce up your garden, do two things. Edge your garden beds by using a straight-edged spade to cut along the boundary of the bed. Remove any weeds and grass from the cut area and then deepen the cut, angling it away from the bed. Secondly, pull any weeds that would catch your eye in a slow drive past the bed. I think of this as the ten m.p.h. rule. Any extra time can be spent mulching your new garden edges.

Have you heard of *Weedless Gardening*? This is a book by Lee Reich, a former plant and soil researcher with the USDA and Cornell University, who gardens in New Paltz, NY. A key point of his book is that weed seeds require light and heat to germinate, so do everything you can to deny them those things. Avoid digging when possible, and cover the soil with some sort of mulch.

GREENBANKS GARDENING



With Deborah Banks

Reich argues that digging or tilling in the vegetable garden is unnecessary and dooms you to a summer of weeding. The soil structure and mycorrhizae fungal networks are also disturbed by digging. Instead, Reich adds compost to the top of the ground, letting worms and microbes incorporate it into the soil, and just makes



Japanese hand weeding tool

small holes to add his seeds or plants. When it is time to remove old vegetation, he cuts it at ground level, leaving the roots in place and the soil undisturbed.

Soil can be covered with a variety of mulches, including compost, wood chips, straw, grass clippings (from lawns not treated with chemicals), newspaper, green mulch, and gravel (nice in an herb garden). Ideally, mulch should be biodegradable and found cheaply from a local source. Mulches made from living matter break down over time to enrich the soil.

Black plastic (not biodegradable or cheap or locally sourced) can be spread on a garden bed for a couple of weeks to kill weeds before planting. You can even plant with the plastic in place by cutting holes for your plants. Heat loving plants like tomatoes and peppers appreciate this approach.

Green mulch is also known as living mulch. It simply means to cover the soil with plants, either by the use of groundcover plants beneath your other plants or by planting thickly enough that the soil is not visible. There are many groundcovers that can be used in an ornamental garden to discourage weeds, such as creeping phlox, Jacob's ladder, sweet woodruff, blue gramma grass, sedum, and pulmonaria. A vegetable garden's cover crop might be buckwheat, crimson clover, field oats, or alfalfa.

Gardeners will always have to contend with weeds, but some weeds have benefits. Dandelions, bugleweed, and yarrow are a source of nectar and pollen for bees. Some weeds with deep roots aerate hard-packed clay and bring deeply located trace minerals to the surface. Evening primrose, plantain, mullein, dandelions, burdock, goldenrod, and many other weeds have medicinal uses.

Plus, you can eat your weeds. Early dandelion greens can be added to salad, along with violets, purslane, lamb's quarters, henbit, wood sorrel, and chickweed. I've read that the young shoots of Japanese knotweed can be cooked and eaten, assuming you find a colony that hasn't been sprayed repeatedly with herbicide.

I continue to battle my weeds, but by August, my 30 m.p.h. rule is in effect. And, of course, never let a weed go to seed.

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VILLAGE BOARD BEAT

By Connie Martin, Village Trustee

Memorial Day Parade a Success. A huge Thank You to the Memorial Day Parade Committee and all other Franklin and Treadwell community organizations and residents who participated to honor our veterans. The weather cooperated, too!

Hometown Heroes Banner Program. The beautiful banners along Main Street honoring our hometown armed forces veterans are a moving tribute to their service. In time for Memorial Day, Franklin has 66 banners displayed on Main Street/State Highway 357 and an additional 14 banners are on order. The Hamlet of Treadwell has 31 banners displayed. A huge Thank You to the team who made it happen: Lori Taggart, Missy Komenda, Steve Banks, Ken and Charleen Taylor, Judy and Mark Doring, Terry Huyck and the amazing NYSEG installation teams from Oneonta and Walton.

UPCOMING EVENTS – Mark Your Calendars!

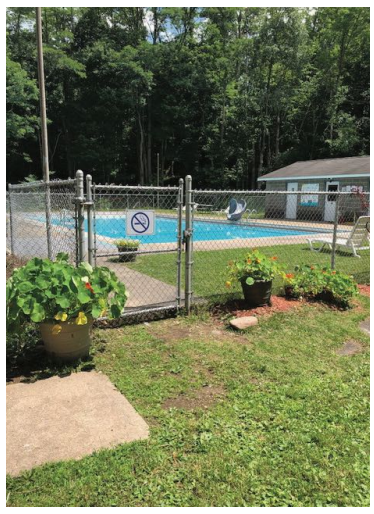


Memorial Dedication in the Park: On Friday, July 3 at 1:00 p.m., there will be a memorial dedication in Franklin Memorial Park on Main Street, followed by a community reception with location to be determined. This memorial has been commissioned by the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum, in partnership with Mr. Laing's History of Franklin class. Please join us at this event to commemorate America's 250th Anniversary.

The Stagecoach Run Art Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary in Franklin and Treadwell on Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12. This free, self-guided open studio tour features some of the Catskills' best artists, performers, and makers. Visit *stagecoachrun.com* for details and a map. (See related article on Pg. 14)

Old Franklin Day. Plans are underway for Old Franklin Day on Saturday, August 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (See related article on Pg. 18)

SWIMMING SEASON: The Franklin Community Pool officially opens on July 1. Thank you to our wonderful returning lifeguards and the new lifeguards who signed up! Beginning July 6, there will be morning and evening swimming and water safety lessons for children on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The schedule TBA.



Water aerobics instructor Linda Worden is back with water aerobics and aqua arthritis classes on Wednesdays. Start date and time TBA. The Community Pool is also available for parties at a cost of $150 for up to 3 hours for 20 persons or less, and $250 for more than 20 persons. To book in advance, contact the Village of Franklin at 607-829-6776 or *clerk@villageoffranklinny.us*

RECREATION COMMISSION NOTES

Field Sports. We are excited to offer Slow Pitch Baseball and T-Ball this year! We hope to add youth soccer in the fall, but will need a parent or community volunteer to coach. Email *mayor@villageoffranklin.us* if you would like

See BEAT, con't on Page 18

MAYWOOD SOCIALS

Sidney Center's Maywood Depot Celebrates Its 33rd Ice Cream Socials Season

By Carol Ohmart-Behan

The Maywood Historical Depot opened its doors on May 24th for the start of their popular Summer Ice Cream Socials. The socials are held each Sunday evening through Labor Day Weekend, from 6 to 8 p.m., featuring live music and an always-tasty variety of homemade pies and ice cream. The Depot's well-curated museum is open as well for people to enjoy the displays of the O. & W. Railroad's history and other railroad memorabilia, as well as an extensive collection of local and regional history. The grounds overlooking Sidney Center make for a pleasant stroll on a summer evening.

A number of changes have happened at the Depot for 2026, due both to retiring members of the Maywood Historical Group and a welcome number of new volunteers.

Grateful thanks are extended to Darryl Loker, stepping aside after 35 years as the newsletter editor, as well as stints as the group's president, treasurer, and trustee during his 40 years of active involvement with the Depot.

Other accolades go to Lynn Roof for his truly tireless work for over 30 years of maintaining both the building and the grounds. Often assisting Lynn was Bob King, a former trustee, who has hung up his handyman hat as well. Finally, as the newsletter put it, "a bouquet of thanks" to Ann Birdsall for her many years orchestrating the Ice Cream Socials entertainment. No less than three new people have taken on what she did!

New faces in the group include Jessie Green who took on the work of treasurer and is also the new media and tech-expert. Her accomplishments already include revamping the Maywood website (link below) and spearheading efforts to bring the internet to the Depot. Carol Behan and Geri Mott offered their talents as the editors of the 2026 Depot Dispatch Newsletter. Continuing as president and vice president respectively are Bob Pomeroy and Gerald Byrnes. Darla Crandall, who has long served as secretary, has recently needed to stop down due to health concerns.

Last but not least, thanks to the number of new volunteers, the group is pleased to announce that the museum and building have increased their open hours. Visitors will find it open on Tuesday from 10 to 2 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 to noon, later hours by appointment. The grounds themselves can be visited every day from morning to dusk.

The Maywood Historical Group meets monthly on the 3 rdTuesday at 6:00 p.m. from April to October. All are welcome to attend. Further information, including a full list of musicians performing during Summer 2026, can be found at www.maywoodhistoricalgroup.org



The Maywood Depot in Sidney Center *Photo by Mike Sellitti*

kitchen basics

with Carla Nordstrom

SUMMER SIPS

Nothing hits the spot like a cold drink on a really hot summer day. Though we haven't seen many of those so far this year, they are bound to come. I find that a lightly fruited drink topped with seltzer is really refreshing when the steamy weather arrives and my energy is drained by the combination of high heat and muggy air. One key to making summer sips is using a simple syrup.

Making simple syrup is a simple process.

Combine 1 part sugar and 1 part water. Bring it to a boil. Simmer for 3 minutes. Cool, store in a glass jar, and refrigerate.

Simple syrup keeps for quite a while, if you use a very clean or sterilized jar. If you notice a film forming on the top, it is best to throw it out.

Simple syrup can be used for mocktails, cocktails, or sorbets. It can also be flavored with mint, peeled fresh ginger, vanilla bean, lavender, or even hot peppers if you like your drinks a little spicy. The flavoring can be added while the syrup is simmering or by placing the add-ins in the jar and covering them with the hot syrup.

One of my all-time favorite summertime drinks is Lebanese Frozen Mint Lemonade. I first had it when living in Beirut and couldn't believe that something so delicious could be an everyday thing.

This recipe is for two and can be extended.

Lebanese Frozen Mint Lemonade

¼ cup simple syrup
¼ tsp. orange blossom water optional
2 ½ lemons juiced, or ½ cup
1 cup mint leaves
1 cup ice cubes
Seltzer



Photo by Carla Nordstrom

Put cold simple syrup, orange blossom water, lemon juice, and mint into a blender and blend until mint is well chopped. Add ice and blend until slushy. Pour into two glasses, top with seltzer and garnish with a slice of lemon and a sprig of mint. Serve with a long spoon or straw.

'Shrubs' are vinegar-laced fruit drinks. Back in the 1700s, before refrigeration, vinegar was used in fruit drinks to preserve the fruit. Shrubs are on the menu in Colonial Williamsburg, and if you are looking for a creative way to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, you might consider serving shrubs.

Shrubs are made using fresh fruit, sugar, and vinegar, although cider, or white wine will do.

In a nonreactive bowl combine:

1 part chopped fruit such as berries, peaches, citrus, or apples

1 cup of sugar.

Stir, cover, and place in the refrigerator for one to two days, When the sugar is completely dissolved, strain the fruit in a colander.



Photo by Andy Bobrow

Add 1 part vinegar

Place in a clean jar and refrigerate until needed.

Strawberry Lemon Shrub

1 cup sugar

1 lemon, zested, then peeled. Discard the pulp and chop the fruit.

8 oz. sliced strawberries

½ cu white balsamic vinegar

Combine grated rind with sugar and mix together using your fingers. Add strawberries and chopped lemon. Let it sit at room temperature until sugar dissolves between 6 -12 hours.

Strain fruit, stir in vinegar, put in a clean jar, and refrigerate until needed.

For each glass serving, muddle or blend a large strawberry with 2 Tbl. syrup, fill the glass with ice, add seltzer and garnish with a lemon slice and a sprig of mint.

As we were drinking our shrubs, my husband said, "This would be really good with gin." He added a splash of gin and it was delicious.

GREATER FRANKLIN FOOD PANTRY

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
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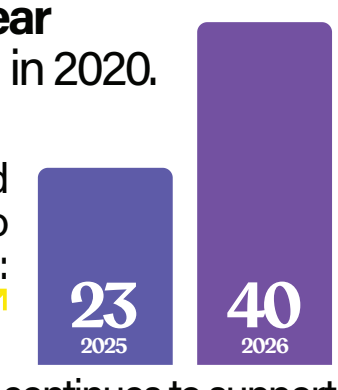
GREATER FRANKLIN FOOD PANTRY

January- May 2025
65
Household Visits

January-May 2026
133
Household Visits
104.6%
Increase over 2025

The number of households served has ↖ **increased year-over-year** since the pantry opened in 2020.

The number of holiday food boxes distributed has also increased year-over-year: ↗



↘ The pantry continues 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
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FOCUS ON ENERGY

PIPELINE COSTS

Estimated Facilities Costs

Construction	Cost
Easements, ROW	19,734,950
Surveys	10,761,800
Materials	120,033,242
Labor	416,769,370
Contingencies	151,859,913
Engineering & Inspection	60,297,609
Damages	22,486,631
Line-Pack Gas	1,544,589
Overhead, G&A	15,945,291
Legal Fees	12,000,000
AFUDC	123,032,000
Other Services and Costs	96,242,734
Total Estimated Cost	**1,050,708,129**

G&A General and Administrative
AFUDC Allowance for Funds Used During Construction

In addition, the project would include building two regulating and metering stations in Pennsylvania where gas would enter the pipeline. They would cost Williams Companies $8.13 million for Turnpike Station and $9.47 million for Westfall Station. Williams cancelled the project in 2020 after spending $354 million. Therefore, total cost of pipeline would be $1.42 billion.

Iroquois Gas Transmission System would build a compressor and metering station to receive gas from Constitution Pipeline at Wright NY, which would cost $152 million. Total cost of both projects would be $1.57 billion, ultimately to be borne by the consumers. All these amounts are estimates.

CONSTITUTION CHRONICLES

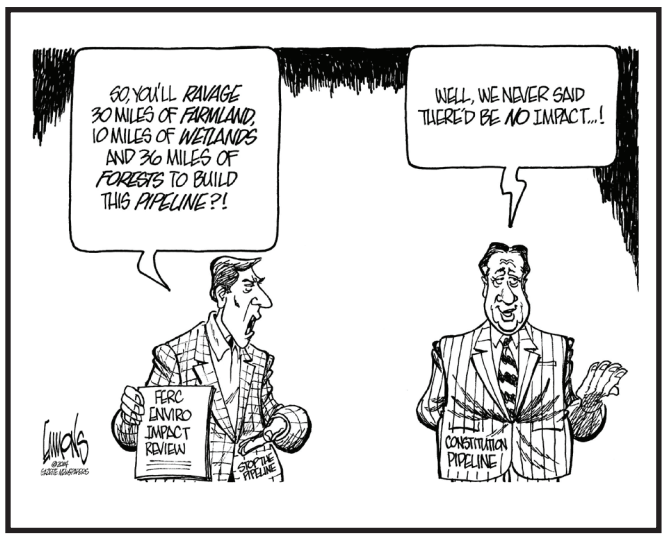
Compiled by Brian Brock

Mar 17: Stop the Pipeline protests to FERC that the commission lacks the authority to reissue a certificate or reaffirm a waiver of authority for projects that have been vacated by court order. Therefore, request by Iroquois Gas Transmission System of February 13th must be denied, and IGTS must file a new application for its Wright Interconnect project.

Mar 26: FERC notifies that the commission having failed to answer the lawful request of February 23rd for rehearing of its Order of January 23rd within the 30-day deadline, a rehearing is automatically denied by law.

April 3: FERC opens a month-long period for recommendations on scope of revisions to its Environmental Impact Statements for Constitution Pipeline and Wright Interconnect projects. Deadline for submissions is May 4th.

May 5: FERC requests that both Williams Companies and IGTS provide updated information and resolve discrepancies with prior submission by deadline of May 26th.



May 19: FERC dismisses request for rehearing of its Order on Remand by Mountainkeeper et al, NYSDEC, and Stop the Pipeline.

May 19: Earthjustice for Mountainkeeper et al files petition for review by U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit of Order of Remand of January 23rd and Denial of Rehearing of March 26th by FERC. NYSDEC does likewise on May 21st, as does STP on May 22nd.

May 22: Williams files supplemental information with FERC. Iroquois does likewise on May 26th.

FRACAS, continued from Pg. 1

the property here as an investment, with intention to lease it for production of methane.

Those 164 acres are in Delaware County, three miles east of Unadilla village and six miles west of Franklin village. The family paid $405K for the land in 2011. They sold the above-ground property for $135K in 2019 but retained the below-ground mineral rights — a legal practice unusual in New York but common in western states such as Texas.

The Pacific Legal Foundation is providing legal service to the Woodwards free of charge. Last December, this foundation published an article on fracking in New York which solicited plaintiffs:

"[Our] Environment and Natural Resources practice group is actively seeking mineral rights owners in New York who want to challenge these unconstitutional restrictions. If you own mineral rights in New York and have been denied the ability to make productive use of your property, we want to hear from you. It's time to hold New York accountable for its decade-long assault on property rights, and the regulatory limbo it's forcing on energy producers."

The author of that article, Tyler Fry, is one of the attorneys from PLF who are representing the Woodwards. In this complaint, he is joined by Jeffery Jennings and David McDonald. Only McDonald is a member of the New York bar.

PLF is a libertarian law firm that was established in 1973 to defend and promote individual freedom. Its attorneys provide pro bono legal representation, file amicus curiae briefs, advocate for legislation, create model policy, and commission original research. Its stated goals are supporting property rights, equality, opportunity, and the separation of powers.

The foundation seeks cases that could test the limits of constitutional rights. As of last year, PLF had won 18 cases before the Supreme Court of the United States and lost only two — a 90% success rate. Recent victories include *Sackett v. EPA* (2023) that limited the agency's jurisdiction over wetlands under Clean Water Act and *Tyler v. Hennepin Co.* (2023) an unanimous ruling that government cannot take a person's home over tax debt and keep any excess equity from the sale. In *Woodward et al v. Lefton et al*, PLF claims that "Madison Woodward analyzed the property carefully before he and his son agreed to buy. Madison studied the geology of the region and saw potential in the 164-acre lot before them. It was located inside a rich natural gas reserve in New York's Delaware County, and — in looking at several successful developments on similar land in nearby Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania — they were confident that their investment would pay off. They bought the property in 2011 with the hope of developing it in the future."

The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution says, in part, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The Supreme Court of the U.S. has recognized that for the public good, a state may reasonably restrict an owner from profiting from his property provided that there remain other options. For example, the Town of Franklin might ban opening an underground nuclear-waste depository, but a landowner could still log or farm the land. However, the Woodwards own only the subsurface mineral rights.

There are problems with PLF's theory of an illegal taking. The first is if there is any value to the Woodward's mineral rights. Before the fracking ban, the oil and gas industry was interested in land in New York along the border with Pennsylvania. But it's questionable if there's economically-recoverable methane beneath Sidney, more than two dozen miles to the north. Prospects for shale gas decreases rapidly northward from Pennsylvania, becoming zero in northern Otsego County. Woodward is a geologist who was working in the O&G E&P and should have been aware of this uncertainty.

Secondly, even if there is value, does the ban prevent them from realizing it? A year or two ago, Bryce Phillips of Southern Tier Solutions proposed an ingenious scheme to extract methane from the black shales in New York while simultaneously sequestering CO_2 -- a win-win. Phillips claimed that HVHF would not be necessary. This process has yet to be tested, but remains a possibility.

The third concerns their expectations of profiting. In 2010 — a year before the Woodwards bought their property — Governor Patterson signed an executive order for a moratorium on HVHF while a SGEIS was being prepared. Therefore, when the family purchased this property a year later, there was no certainty of a future for fracking the Marcellus Formation beneath New York. What is more, the SGEIS process was closed in June of 2015 with that findings statement banning HVHF, four years before the Woodwards sold their property while retaining the mineral rights. By then, there was no legal way to exercise those rights.

While the Woodwards might be satisfied with compensation for loss of their rights in Sidney, PLF seeks legal reform for the whole country. The mills of the gods grind slowly. An initial pre-trial conference is set for mid-July. A trial in the lower court could take more than a year. Appealing this case up to the U.S. Supreme Court could take an additional three to five years. Finality could be a decade away.



FISHING IN FRANKLIN

Staff Report

The Ouleout Creek is a trout stream, although maybe not quite as famous as the Beaverkill. New York State maintains the stocks of trout by regular replenishment. In the first week in April, thousands of brown trout were poured into the creek, both above and below the East Sidney Lake. Stocking is not done here every year, but the Ouleout was on this year's list. Into the Franklin stretch went 1,140 of the 9 to 10 inchers and 140 of the 12 to 15 inchers. Into the Sidney stretch went 980 smaller and 120 larger. Smaller fish were from the one-year tanks and the larger from the two-year.

The season for the taking of trout from streams is April 1 to October 15, with a daily limit of five trout, only two of which may be larger than 12". Other times, fishing is limited to catch-and-release, using only artificial lures. Fishing requires a license, which is available from the town clerk or online.





Every spring, the DEC stocks the waterways around the state. Its stocking program restores native species to waters where they formerly swam and maintains stocks for recreational fishermen. Millions of freshwater fish are added into more than 1,200 public streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.

Each of the dozen DEC fish hatcheries specialize in raising one or more species of fish, including: cisco, muskellunge, tiger muskellunge, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, landlocked Atlantic salmon, lake sturgeon, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout/steelhead, lake trout, walleye, and round whitefish.

All hatcheries are open to the public for free from spring through fall. Those closer to Franklin are the Catskill Hatchery in Livingston Manor, Sullivan County; the Van Hornesville Hatchery in that village, Herkimer County; and the South Otselic in that village, Chenango County.



In the NFR's twenty years, fine photographs by Franklin resident Tony Breuer have often graced our pages. Above is one of our favorites: Brian Brock and Don Hebbard putting their backs into the spring clean-up of the Village Park. Look for more photos in this issue. Thank you, Tony, for your lovely work!

FRANKLIN GUEST HOUSE

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franklin.guest.house@gmail.com

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Over the course of our 20 years, the NFR has benefitted from the generosity and talents of many and varied writers, filling the pages of 58 issues. Listed here are most of them, with apologies to any we might have missed.

To all of you, and especially to our regular contributors, our endless thanks! Here's to another 20 years of local journalism!

- The Editors

R.H. Ackerman
Jerry Acton
Nick Albaugh
Janet Aldrich
Stuart Anderson
Lillie Anderson
ARTS Anonymous
Audubon Society
Sue Avery
Betsy Babcock
Dawn Rivers Baker
Dave Baker
Deborah Banks
Gloria Banks
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Tim Duerden
Mark Dunau
Jessica Farrell
Norm Farwell
Shirley Ferguson
Kerri Ficke
Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D
Frank Fokish

Continued at right…

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Twenty years ago, a group of Franklin residents got together to discuss issues that concerned us about the future of our town and the planet. Franklin Local was the result, and under its aegis, we started The New Franklin Register and the Franklin Farmers' Market.

Due to the hard work and dedication of so many people, both organizations thrive to this day.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Franklin Local, Ltd., is a not-for-profit volunteer organization of residents of the Town of Franklin, NY, and the surrounding area. We are dedicated to rebuilding the local economy, restoring community solidarity and raising awareness of the economic and social problems that are likely to result from the depletion of fossil fuels, the degradation of our local environment, and the steady progression of global climate change.

But it wasn't all grim faces and apocalyptic thoughts. There was much fun to be had, good food, deep discussions, and strong community building.

A GREAT READ

By Hank Stahler

The New Franklin Register was first published in 2006 as an outreach of Franklin Local, a hometown not-for-profit with the mission to inform and encourage activism against the local assault and environmental degradations of Peak Oil. Deeply researched and superbly written articles by Brian Brock, and Carole & Gene Marner sounded the alarms.

The paper slowly grew from four pages to today's 20, covering countless local, national, and global concerns such as farming practices, alternative energies, real estate, art, music, books, politics, and more, thanks to the contributions of an amazing array of mostly local, knowledgeable writers, all of whom are unpaid volunteers.

Always free to readers, the hardcopy NFR is currently mailed to every household and business in Franklin, Treadwell, and Sidney Center. Both current and archived issues are available online and in color.

Simultaneously, the Franklin Local crew founded the Franklin Farmers' Market, first led by market manager Ellen Curtis, and since then, by Patricia Tyrell. Under founder and Editor-In-Chief, Marjorie B. Kellogg, the NFR continues to share vital information, valuable advice, and important communication.

The NFR, the FFM, and Franklin Local itself are still growing…despite the disaster of a *Murder At The Farmers Market!*

Wait! What??

REMEMBER THIS…?

Okay, friends and neighbors - Jack is back and as confused as ever, and you are, too, right? So why not join him in another thrilling episode of...

MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

My name is Jack. I'm kind of a farmer. I grow things.

I left the family farm to my older married sister and bought some decent land around here. Always had produce left over.

Never got involved in the village. I like the quiet.

But I don't like waste. So I thought I'd join the Farmers Market.

What happened when I did almost killed me.

I didn't mean to get involved but I had no choice.

Because death isn't particular.

People can be strange.

And often are.

Let me fill you in from my steno pad.

On Sunday July 4, about 2:00, a body was discovered in a compost pile of cornsilk and beet greens beneath the great porch of the Masonic Temple; the backdrop of the local Farmers Market. White male, 6 ft. tall, blue eyes, and dead. Cause of death: unknown. No marks, no ID, no signs of violence. There was a new wound but an old bandage covering what was left of the middle finger of his right hand. That was all. And it reeked of paint under there from a pile of empty paint cans stacked nearby.

Only the late-leaving vendors saw it. About seven of us. Everyone agreed to keep it quiet for the sake of the community and the market...***Want more? See at right..***



The NEW Franklin Register.

The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil
Vol. I, No. 1 Franklin, New York Spring, 2007
"INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE"

FRANKLIN MAKES HISTORY

On December 6, 2006, the Franklin Town Board became the first in the nation to pass a resolution establishing a Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil, in order to explore the needs and resources of the citizens of the Town of Franklin in the face of the global problem known as Peak Oil.

RESOLUTION:
Whereas oil production in the lower 48 states peaked in 1970, making the United States ever more dependent upon imported oil, and
Whereas a growing body of professional opinion in the energy industries believes that the world has already arrived or will soon arrive at the peak of global oil production, and
Whereas North American production of natural gas has already peaked, and
Whereas no alternatives are in place or ready to substitute for oil and natural gas and are decades away from being ready, and
Whereas the economic, political, and social implications of declining energy resources are not generally understood, and are likely to have dramatic effects upon every aspect of our lives, and
Whereas, in conditions of energy decline and reduced mobility, communities will be forced to rely ever more upon local resources.
Therefore,
Be it resolved that the Franklin Town Board authorizes the creation of a Citizens' Commission to examine the issues raised by declining energy supplies and rising energy costs, to explore the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin affected by energy costs and supplies, and to report back to the Board and to the citizens of Franklin the results of its discussions and deliberations.

U.S. Cities That Have Passed or Are Considering a Peak Oil Resolution

Welcome to the New Franklin Register!

Several times a year, the NFR will bring you informed articles, interesting facts and local news updates relating to the depletion of fossil fuels and other complex energy issues now challenging our community.

Please take home a copy. It's free!

RARE OIL
A resource formation primer
by Brian Brock

Crude oil and natural gas are stored solar energy. Plants, plankton, and some bacteria grow by using sunlight to build organic matter from water and carbon dioxide. Oil and gas form from accumulations of tiny organisms that grow floating in sea water, die, and then sink to the bottom. (Coal forms from accumulations of plant fragments in fresh water.) Considering the abundance of life that grows each year, you might think that during the 4,500 million years of Earth's history, limitless reserves of fossil fuels should have been produced. But unfortunately, because of all the unusual conditions that must coincide to create a commercial oil field, this is not the case.

For instance:
* Abundant life on our planet is a relatively recent evolution, starting 500 million years ago. More than half of our oil is from the middle era of fossilized life, the Mesozoic, roughly 65 to 250 million years ago.
* Almost all organic matter is eaten by animals, fungi, or bacteria, which then absorb the energy produced as the hydrocarbons are broken down. Only a tiny fraction of this organic matter gets buried underground before it has been consumed.
* Most rocks do not contain the organic matter needed to make oil. Shales do; they are thinly layered, very fine grained rock. Locally, the Catskills are made of coarser-grained conglom-

See RARE on Page 2

JACK 2
Reading Between the Lines on Big Oil's Gulf of Mexico Discovery
by Brandon Dennis

I have studied Peak Oil, and followed world oil and gas production trends for the past two years. Most of what I have learned can be described as a progression of bad news events. You have all experienced it in a personal way through higher gasoline prices. World oil production has remained flat for the past eighteen months, while political turmoil in some of the more important oil producing regions seems to be getting worse.

The only recent good news in the oil business was the announcement early in September that Chevron, Statoil, and Devon Energy had made a major oil discovery in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Most news outlets in the U.S. proclaimed this discovery optimistically, reporting that the new field could contain from 3 to 15 billion barrels of oil. By choosing the high number of 15 billion barrels, some of those journalists were able to construct headlines that declared: "U.S. oil reserves increase by 80% due to Gulf of Mexico Discovery." As a result, the price of crude oil went down by 60 cents per barrel on the day the discovery was announced.

But let me share with you some of the facts of this discovery. A year ago, a production test well named Jack 2 was drilled 175 miles off shore in the Gulf of Mexico,

See JACK on Page 3

PEAK OIL
What does it mean, and what can we do?
by Eugene Marner

All living things need energy to live. No one is closer to this simple fact than farmers and gardeners, even if we don't think about it every day as we go about our chores. We need energy to get up in the morning to do those chores. Our plants and animals need energy in order to grow and live. And it is the energy captured and concentrated by farmers and gardeners that sustains the vast majority of the population who do not grow their own food. All our techniques of planting and cultivation may be seen as strategies for harnessing and storing the energy of the sun, for our use and survival.

Until the last 200 years or so, the only energy we humans had was the sun. The marvel of photosynthesis converts the sun's energy into the plants that feed us or the animals that we eat, and that provide wood and fiber for clothing and shelter. As long as we use no more energy than the sun can replenish within the unfolding of the seasons, we are living in a sustainable manner.

See PEAK OIL on Page 4

A PEAK OIL GLOSSARY

Hydrocarbons:
Chemical compounds, such as petroleum, coal and gas, that contain hydrogen and carbon.

Fossil Fuels:
Hydrocarbons, such as petroleum, coal and gas, created from the remains of dead plants and animals deposited millions of years ago and subjected to tremendous heat and pressures in the depths of the Earth.

We had witty book reviews by JIM MULLEN. For instance…



Photo by Tony Breuer

DAVID AND GOLIATH
By Malcolm Gladwell
Reviewed by Jim Mullen

Malcolm Gladwell has become his own genre -- any well written, well researched, easily absorbed piece of nonfiction on a random but interesting topic is now called Gladwellian, as if that's a bad thing. It is not. Atul Gawande, Michael Pollan, and Michael Lewis are all Gladwellian, but they stick to their fields -- medicine, food and high finance. Like John McPhee before him, Gladwell does not. He is all over the map, writing about science, pop culture, crime, whatever strikes his interest, and he makes us interested in it, too. He doesn't write about hot topics in the news but his subjects often become hot topics. The premise of "David and Goliath" is that in many cases, including the title story, if you dig deep you'll find the real, counter-intuitive-lesson of the tale. His subjects are as diverse as girls' basketball, three-strikes-and-you're-out laws, the disadvantaged children of the wealthy and a few more. As Way Bandy, the late make-up artist used to put it, "When you scratch the surface, there's always more surface." It could have easily been the title of this book.





For more: you can catch up on *Murder at the Farmers' Market,* as well as all back issues of The New Franklin Register, by accessing our online archive via the Franklin Local website, artfully and diligently maintained by Helen McLean and Bill Gruber of Franklin's own IT professionals, Gibson Hill Services.

You can also follow us on Facebook.

The New Franklin Register

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Continued at right…

Below, the (lightly edited) text of Gene Marner's article on Peak Oil which appeared in our first issue in spring of 2007 and inspired our founding. Twenty years later, not much has changed.

PEAK OIL

What does it mean, and what can we do?

By Eugene Marner

All living things need energy to live. No one is closer to this simple fact than farmers and gardeners, even if we don't think about it every day as we go about our chores….And it is the energy captured and concentrated by farmers and gardeners that sustains the vast majority of the population who do not grow their own food.

All our techniques of planting and cultivation may be seen as strategies for harnessing and storing the energy of the sun, for our use and survival. Until the last 200 years or so, the only energy we humans had was the sun. The marvel of photosynthesis converts the sun's energy into the plants that feed us or the animals that we eat, and that provide wood and fiber for clothing and shelter. As long as we use no more energy than the sun can replenish within the unfolding of the seasons, we are living in a sustainable manner.

But with the onset of the Industrial Revolution, we learned to use not only the seasonal energy of the sun, but also the sun's ancient energy, stored deep in the earth for hundreds of millions of years. First coal, then later oil and gas, provided a huge increase in the amount of energy available to each human being. For the first time in history, humans were freed from the constraints of the annual cycle of plant growth and energy conversion. Quickly we became dependent upon a vast range of mechanical slaves. With the aid of fossil fuel resources, food production and population quickly grew far beyond the capacity of the earth to sustain by its own annual cycles of growth and decay.

But lately, it has become clear just how finite these marvelous resources really are. The cheap and abundant sources of energy that sustain our civilization as we know it are about to peak in production and start a permanent and irreversible decline.

Oil does much of the work of our society; it eases our lives and feeds most of the world. Look around



Photo by Trish Tyrell

you! Pick up the object nearest to hand...Oil almost certainly contributed to the power used in its manufacture and, if it runs, it runs on power generated with fossil fuels. Our society and civilization are built upon the availability of cheap oil for transportation, for food production, for warmth, for trade and commerce.

The next decade or two will see…the end of cheap, readily available oil. Yet, with the exception of a few responsible oil geologists and scientists, almost no one is talking about this impending catastrophe. During the last presidential campaign, neither of the major candidates mentioned the swiftly approaching collapse and all it implies. Well, of course - no politician wants to be the bearer of bad news, and this news is dreadful. Many people will not believe it…The International Energy Agency… has predicted that the peak of world oil production will come around 2012. Other oil analysts predict the peak much sooner, between now and 2010. It may have happened already.

The peak doesn't mean that the remaining oil will suddenly dry up. Oil wells will go on producing oil for many decades. But after peak, the amount extracted from the earth will steadily decline. When that happens, everything that now depends on oil - food, jobs, heat, travel, hospitals, medicines, growth economies, television, movies, police and fire departments, armies, schools, roads, everything, you name it - will…begin to grind to a halt. Natural gas will be no substitute, as it is also being rapidly depleted. And none of the potential alternatives (such as solar power, wind power or the hydrogen economy) can replace oil in the way that we now profligately use it. The research so far suggests that many alternatives require more energy to produce than they will eventually generate. Those that do provide positive net energy cannot begin to approach either the power or the quantity of the oil we currently use. Once the oil is gone, nothing can perpetuate the present energy-intensive way of life that we have come to look upon as our birthright.

Some of us may not be around when the last drop is extracted, but our children will be. Unless we look closely and carefully at what is coming, we'll be unable to prepare for the survival of our children and grandchildren.

What can we do?

We must use the oil that is still available, and the short time we have with it, to create a new low-energy way of life. We must reshape our communities and reorder our lives so that we work together to feed and house and clothe ourselves locally, without recourse to imports from distant places. By "distant places" I don't mean Paris and the Philippines but simply places that we cannot reach on foot, or bicycle or horse cart. It is not globalization that we need but localization, not growth but contraction.

We shall all need to grieve for the world that is passing…But tears will not save us nor will our armies (which will run out of gasoline shortly after we do). Nor will frenzied drilling for the last drop. The earth is a finite sphere and…Sooner or later …the oil will run out. So we must overcome our grief, teach ourselves to value long-term survival above present comfort, and find the determination to organize for what, with much wisdom and care, could even turn out to be an improvement on our present way of living in the world and with each other.

What sorts of things can we do? We can start with food production. We are fortunate to live in an agricultural area where animal husbandry and the cultivation of crops are well understood by many and where gardening is common. Many people are still around who remember how to farm with horses and mules. Many know how to harvest crops by hand, how to store and preserve them..we'll need those skills. On a few acres, cooperating friends and neighbors can raise plenty of corn and potatoes and chickens to feed their families.

Then there is winter. We all have to learn to heat our homes without oil. Even in the cold northeast, passive solar homes require very little energy to heat. Information on how to use such techniques needs to be disseminated. We'll also have to ensure that our forests do not vanish in a panicky frenzy of clear-cutting for firewood.

There are many other things to consider: clothing, medical care, schools, the arts. We must begin to discuss what we can do and then organize to do it, for the changes we face are enormous and unprecedented and none of us can survive alone. This would be an excellent occasion to resuscitate service organizations like Masons, Elks, Moose, Rotary, etc. that have seen declining memberships over recent decades. Such groups can help provide the coordination and local support systems we shall need.

None of this will be easy, but we are not helpless and don't have to succumb to despair. We must come together in our communities and begin to talk about this colossal and inevitable event. Governments can't do it for us: they are short-sighted and unable to speak the truth. Corporations won't do it for us: they are interested only in maximizing profits.

Nothing will happen if we don't do it for ourselves.

The NFR: independent, fearless, and always FREE!



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Photo by Tony Breuer

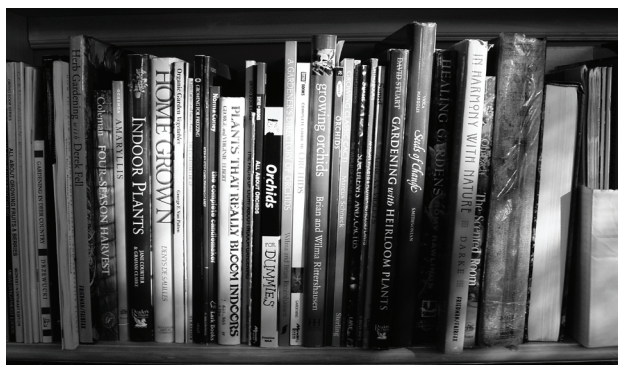
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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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SHELTER BOOK NOTES WITH SUSAN BARNETT



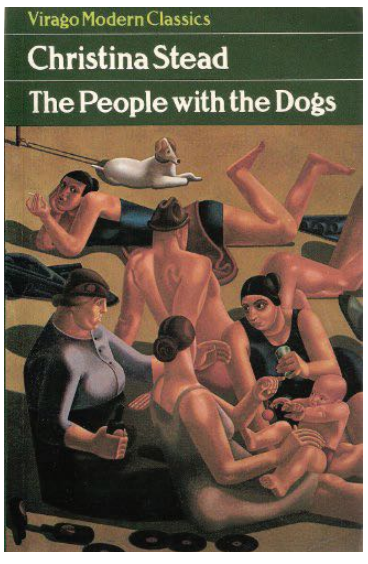
SUMMER READING

Summer reading does not have to restrict itself to beach books. In fact, I cannot read at the beach. It's too sunny, too glare-y. Besides, why on earth would you bury your nose in a book when you can watch the sea? I've never understood it.

But summer reading is every bit as marvelous as winter reading. Your cozy winter reading by the fire can move outside to a hammock, or a lounge chair, or a shady spot under a tree. Outdoor settings make reading about beautiful places even more special. At least I think so.

Summer is also the time that many people escape their daily lives, revisiting a beloved family tradition, or experiencing exotic new places. I've got some book recommendations to fit in with such adventures.

The first one is set in the Catskill Mountains, and is loosely based on real people. Christina Stead's THE PEOPLE WITH THE DOGS is about an artsy, bohemian New York City family who gather each summer at their rambling, ramshackle home in the mountains. Stead doesn't flatter them.



Edward Massine is a charming, careless fellow who has inherited a couple of buildings in New York, and rents rooms to various eccentrics. He is an aspiring artist, but doesn't seem to have any real ambition, and his modest wealth allows him to avoid choosing a path in life. Each summer, he travels upstate to spend time in Whitehouse, the Massine family home in the mountains, which overflows with relatives and dogs until it closes up again for the winter.

Whitehouse is benevolently ruled by Edward's charming and unpredictable Aunt Oneida, but the house was left to the entire family to share, with instructions that all things be equal and fair.

Edward slowly sees the limitations he has imposed upon himself in his role as everyone's favorite little boy, and discovers that choosing a path doesn't mean losing the things he loves most.

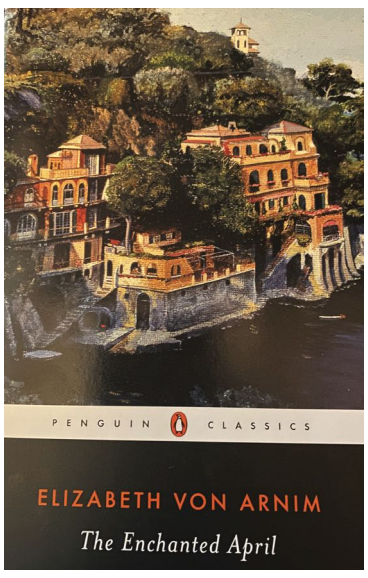
THE PEOPLE WITH THE DOGS isn't a great book, but it's an interesting book – a behind-the-scenes look at a family in a particular moment in American history – not that long ago. It's about a certain segment of America – the second generation of immigrant success stories - and the ways family both grounds us and ties us down.

The setting is Hunter, New York. Whitehouse is real, though it is now nearly in ruins. The Massines are based on a family that welcomed Stead to its summer paradise, and their beloved town has now mostly forgotten them (and Stead). But the stories are close to true, and it has roused a fascination that may one day inspire me to write a book of my own about them.

The second book is possibly a perfect story. It was made into a nearly perfect movie, too. Elizabeth Von Arnim's THE ENCHANTED APRIL is the story of two complete strangers - Lottie Wilkins and Rose Arbuthnot, two desperately unhappy wives in dreary, rainy post-World War I England. Lottie sees an ad, and proposes that she and Rose rent a villa in Italy for the month of April - without their husbands. To help make the rent, they are joined by the cantankerous Mrs. Fisher and the glamorous but antisocial Lady Caroline.

Something magical happens.

The villa is an enchanting place. Italy is beyond their wildest dreams. The sunshine is restorative, the proximity to the sea, the quiet and the peace are just a joy to read about. All four women are transformed by the experience of sharing warmth and kindness in a glorious place with total strangers.



All of their relationships are transformed, and by the end of the book (or the 1992 movie – strongly recommended), you will feel like you have been changed, too.

THE ENCHANTED APRIL is one of my happy places. Go visit.

SHELTER BOOKS
FRANKLIN, NEW YORK

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



WE NEVER KNOW HOW HIGH WE ARE

By Emily Dickinson

We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise;
And then, if we are true to plan,
Our statures touch the skies—

The Heroism we recite
Would be a daily thing,
Did not ourselves the Cubits warp
For fear to be a King—



Daguereotype of Emily Dickinson

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) wrote almost 1800 poems in her lifetime, although most were not published until afterwards. She lived a quiet life in Amherst, Massachusetts

Today she is known for her unusual works, and often considered the greatest American poet.

This poem is in the public domain.

Curated by Bertha Rogers





STAGECOACH RUN
ART FESTIVAL
July 11 & 12, 2026
10am - 5pm
Treadwell & Franklin NY
Our 30th Anniversary

CATSKILL CATS

Music Notes
By John O'Connor



SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

In 1972, John Hartford and the New Grass Revival did a concert at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where I was living at the time, having gone to high school there. Hartford was the guy who wrote *Gentle on My Mind,* a song he sang to introduce the Glen Campbell Show in the late sixties.

I was singing that song back then, when I first started gigging. I was an admirer of Hartford, a multi-talented songwriter, who was also a fiddler and a banjo player. After the concert, I had the temerity to walk backstage and ask him if he and the band (with the legendary mandolinist, Sam Bush) would like to come over to my friend's house and jam. Astoundingly, he unhesitatingly said, "sure, that sounds like fun" and turned to the band to see if they were up for it. That night, Hartford and Bush played fiddle tunes until the wee hours of the morning. One of the tenants of the house, my friend, "Bad Bob", saved the unfinished bottle of Old Milwaukee that John Hartford had been drinking from, and put it on the mantel. It sat there as a shrine for almost a year.

I ran into John a couple of times after that, once at a concert in Iowa City and once at a bluegrass festival in Bristol, Tennessee. There, he asked if he could borrow my Yamaha guitar to do a set, since the airline he was flying had left his guitar in the Nashville airport.

Hartford died of cancer in 2001. He was one of the most creative artists that the bluegrass, old-time and country music scene had ever known. His talent and humor can be observed in his final days on the documentary, *Down from the Mountain,* which features the music from the Coen Brothers' film, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* John wrote scores of fiddle tunes and left behind several unpublished tunes he had handwritten in his notebooks.

This July at the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, the John Hartford Fiddle Tune Project will perform some of those tunes. The Project is the effort of Sharon Gilchrist, Rachel Baiman, and Ella North, all seasoned and well-traveled players. Just over the mountains from Delaware County, the Festival takes place from July 15 to 19 on Walsh Farm in Oak Hill, NY.

Do yourself a favor and make it over there. If you like traditional music, you will hear among the best of its practitioners on the continent. Other highlights of the festival are the legendary Del McCoury Band, folklorist and versatile singer and instrumentalist; Rhiannon Giddens; the Canadian band, the Revelers; veteran Woodstock musician, Darol Anger; the Cajun band, the Pine Leaf Boys, and so many others. I went last year and was in music heaven.

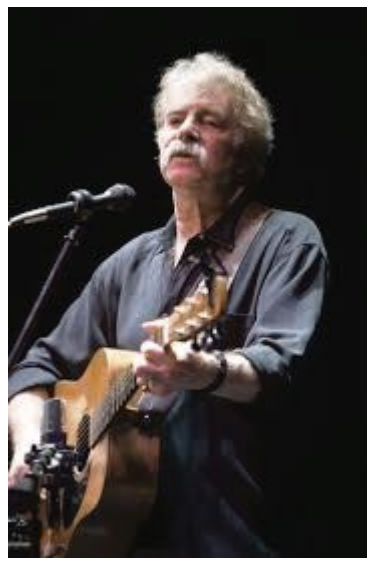


Rhiannon Giddens will appear at the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival July 15-19.

Another festival I attended last year was the Oldtone Music Festival in Hillsdale, NY. This festival is more understated, but my favorite in the region. Its bands tend to be closer to the roots of American music, highlighting "old-timey" music more than bluegrass and other traditions. But this year will feature the tex-mex band Los Texmaniacs and Grupo Cubano, Alex Torres & his Latin Orchestra. Also, the fabulous Jerron Paxton (AKA, Blind Boy Paxton) is scheduled to play. Jerron is a one-man show of traditional musics, from Appalachia banjo to blues guitar. The man is nothing short of a genius who seems to have been dropped out of a time warp from 1929. This festival is one of the smallest I have attended, which is not a statement on the talent. On the contrary, this is a traditional music lover's paradise. Its intimacy makes it all the more enjoyable, consisting of only two stages (dance and concert stages) and a workshop tent. The dance tent is set up on a portable wooden floor, featuring square, contra, and swing dancing, many taught on the spot. The workshop tent is a small area where the masters demonstrate their techniques and discuss the history of the instruments and music they play. The backdrop is the beautiful countryside of Columbia County.

Camping is encouraged. The experience of listening to beautifully played live music, while overlooking the green fields, valleys, and hills at sunset is transformative.

I finally got around to seeing a concert at the Earlville Opera House last summer. Sixties folk hero, Tom Rush, put on an enjoyable concert of old favorites and new songs. The theater is small and wonderfully suited to acoustic music. It programs touring and local acts and it's right up the road a piece. At the time of writing, I have reserved a seat for Carsie Blanton,



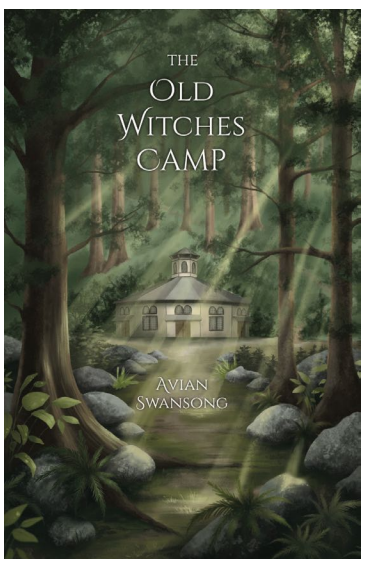
Tom Rush

which will have taken place by the time you read this article. If you check out her music, and you know my politics, you will understand why I booked a ticket. (One of her hits is a song called *Ugly Nasty Commie B*tch)*.

This fall, the theater is leaning heavy on cover bands, including The Lightfoot Band, made up of Gordon's backup musicians, and The Weight Band, featuring former members of Levon Helm's band. The Courtyard series and the Art Cafe series host musical artists closer to home. Check out their website for details: *https://www.earlvilleoperahouse.com/*.

I'll report back on the Carsie Blanton show. I have a tingling in my feet, just anticipating it.

NOW AVAILABLE!



The Old Witches Camp
the second book in *The Old Witches Series*
by **Avian Swansong**

Join Maple, Maya, Birdie, and all their LGBTQ+ friends at camp in the Adirondacks, fighting for the trees, the planet, and their sacred traditions.

Available at
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http://bit.ly/4tXsJq9

THIS IS ENOUGH

A Memory of Franklin

By Rose Komita

I am sitting out on our deck late afternoon. The light will change soon. Early spring is so delicious. Daffodils are showing their fat buds as they push up with renewed energy.

The fruit trees are fragrant this year with their hopeful flowers. What fruit there will be, if there is no frost!

The vegetable gardens are starting to show life. Rhubarb pokes out, soon to be an unbridled foliage fan, scarlet stalks going every which way, like strong spokes of a wheel. The asparagus patch, the promise kept each year, gives way to a flash of bright green spears.

We have worked hard these fifteen years, beautifying and cultivating what I call "my mini national park." Have I mentioned the fresh brook that runs the length of our property, the rush and tumble of water over rocks, almost obscured by a carpet of lush wild watercress?

My gaze always shifts to the half-acre of our spring-fed pristine pond. Swimming, sometimes the springs beneath the surface shock and invigorate with their cold burst. Cattails and rushes sway in the breeze, bass darting through the thick net of roots that connect one to another.

Sunset will still be earlier than I wish, but I anticipate it just the same, its beauty another glory of being here.

Best of all, on this day, I see the red truck slowly coming up the road. It is extra slow in its crawl, and I know why. It is Kathy, looking at each pretty wildflower, the budding roadside lilacs. She is sure not to miss anything, as it lightens her heart as it does mine.

She bears gifts, as she always does: perfectly fresh-baked scones, two dozen eggs from her precious ladies. They know their names, she once told me — even the one not quite one hundred percent, swaying back and forth on one leg, sometimes spinning in circles. They are all loved and tenderly cared for, and I'll tell you, they lay the most delicious eggs of all.

My friend climbs the steps to join me on the deck. We watch the setting sun and its blazing red sky. Kathy leans in and says, "I had to see you to share something. I read online. It was a picture of such a sunset, and the caption was:

'I have seen enough to know that this is enough…'

The Mountain Eagle and The Schoharie News

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM!

STAGECOACH RUN ART FESTIVAL



SATURDAY & SUNDAY

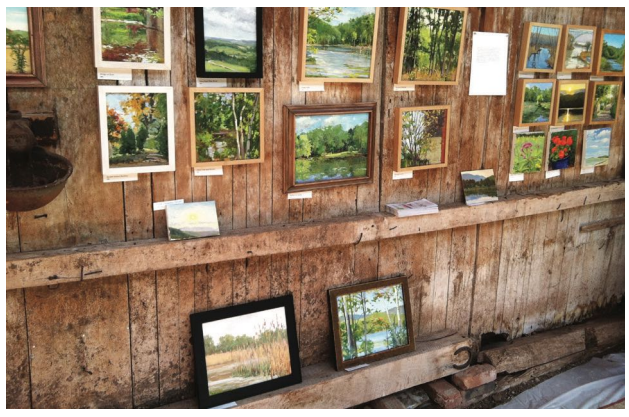
JULY 11-12

SELF-GUIDED STUDIO TOUR 40 ARTISTS • 21 LOCATIONS

TREADWELL & FRANKLIN, NY stagecoachrun.com



rounding the destination village of Franklin. The strong art community in Franklin and its sister hamlet, Treadwell, led to the establishment of an annual event devoted to promoting the visual arts. The name refers to the stagecoaches that used to travel the Catskill Turnpike, created in 1804 and extending from the Hudson River all the way to Erie, Pennsylvania. Contemporary travelers on County Route 14 and State Route 357, (Main Street in Franklin), can still spot the stone signposts left from former days.





ues, and dining options on Facebook and Instagram. Franklin and Treadwell are located midway between Delhi and Oneonta, about two and a half hours from the George Washington Bridge.

https://stagecoachrun.com/

https://www.instagram.com/stagecoachrunartfestival/

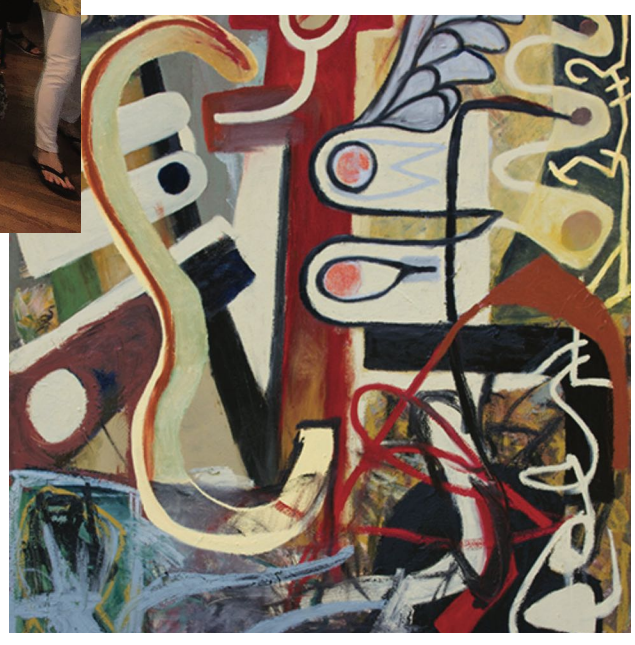
https://www.facebook.com/StagecoachRunArtFestival

THE STAGECOACH RUN ART FESTIVAL IS TURNING 30!

Many great things were just getting their start in the 1990s – the Internet, the Franklin Stage Company, Bright Hill Press, and the first art tour in the Catskills, the Stagecoach Run Art Festival. The all-volunteer planning committee is working to make this year's Stagecoach Run the best ever!

Events will kick off with the opening of the Spotlight Show at Bright Hill Press in Treadwell on Saturday, June 20. The show will contain a representative work of art from each participating artist and will be open through the end of the Festival on July 12. Works purchased at the Spotlight Show support both the artist and Bright Hill.

Established in 1996, the Stagecoach Run Art Festival is a self-guided tour of venues surrounding the countryside around Franklin is some of the loveliest in the Catskills, and the Stagecoach Run Art Festival allows visitors to tour from venue to venue at their own pace. Maps of participating sites are available at many locations throughout the area, and at each venue. Artists will be on hand to discuss their work, and many pieces are available for purchase. There will be dining options in both Franklin and Treadwell. Look for details about artists, ven-



The NFR sat down with Patricia Buckley, Artistic Director of the Franklin Stage Company, to hear her reflections on 30 years of admission-free, live theatre at Chapel Hall.

NFR: Do you recall your first time at Franklin Stage and what impression it made on you?

PB: Maybe not the first, but I remember the first *few* times. I came up to see shows because I had taken a clown workshop from David [Bridel], and my friends Eddie [Vassalo] and Peter Gaitens and others I'd worked with in New York were working here. We had this overlap of London people and New York people. So I came up, and I just thought it was so charming. My actor friends were all living in people's houses around the village. The whole summer - outdoors, indoors, whatever - was very appealing. The first show I did here was *Period of Adjustment* in 2005. I thought it was very magical and I fell in love with the area and I was like, I could have a house up here. Total dream, dream. You get the Franklin fever.

NFR: Do your actors enjoy working here?

PB: When my guest artists come up, they first say, what do you mean we don't have a hotel? And I say, you're in somebody's guest house and it's beautiful. By the end of the weekend, they say: hey, we have another show we can bring up next year. Maybe it's the light or the summer-ness of it. For these dance companies and visiting artists, we have a very appreciative audience, which is a high for a performer. Once they get through tech on Friday and they see their housing, they're like, oh, this is beautiful. I had somebody stay in Unadilla and their host said bring your bathing suits. They got to her house and her son made them drinks and they all ended up singing till four in the morning, then went up to Cooperstown on Saturday. The area has a lot to offer, and it's so beautiful in the summer. There are few venues bringing dance



Patricia Buckley

to our area, so being able to see such quality for free…if you need it to be free…makes this a very special place for both audiences and artists.

NFR: How do you curate the audience experience, so it's what you want it to be?

PB: I apply two criteria when I'm reading to plan a season: is this play moving and is it meaty? Whether it's a comedy or not, I want it to be moving and I want it to be meaty. This is a specific audience. Some things would not go well here though they're great in New York, and vice versa. You have to know your audience and what they like if you want to survive, especially when you are not charging admission and you don't have season memberships. There was a show last year in New York that the writer wanted me to come see. I couldn't get there but somebody else had given me the script. It was very funny, but it never felt like you cared much about the characters. If it's too clever and it doesn't move people and doesn't feel meaty enough…that's a pass. Now and then, with visiting artists, I get to investigate areas that might be challenging for some but also might bring in new people who want something a little more avant, such as Bridgman Packer Dance. What they do with filmmaking, storytelling, music, projections, dance, is really so next level. When we started programing dance, I wanted to focus on folkloric forms, which I thought would be a good way into dance for some of our audience. Dance is often non-narrative, so it lets people off the hook with having to understand a storyline. When they see flamenco, they're like, I get it, it's flamenco. They don't need to put narrative meaning on it. I always want my audience to feel that they can fully participate, feel included and smart and talked to.

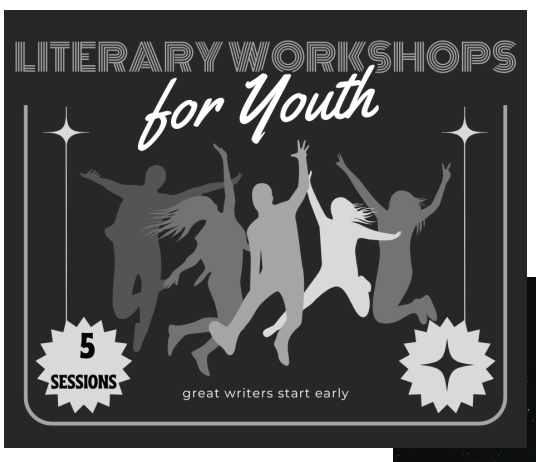
What's important is connecting. When we did *The Price*, in Leslie's and my first season as co-artistic directors, the talkbacks were so robust. And I thought, of course! Who hasn't had to go through their parents' attic with siblings who they're not really that close to? Stories about families, stories about identity…these themes really resonate. *Good People* was the highest grossing show we've ever done here. They really related to Margie's lack of tools, her inability to manage in certain situations, to not be tactful. She stands in for a lot of people. So those are the things I try for. And it can be extremely challenging because there are so many limitations here. Limitations scenically, limitations in staffing. We have interns as our running crew, there's no backstage. You go downstairs to cross over, and there's very, very little wing space. So, you know: we do plays with unit sets. And costume-wise and budget-wise…if we get out over our skis, we don't do it well. But if we embrace it, make the best of it, you can make something beautiful.

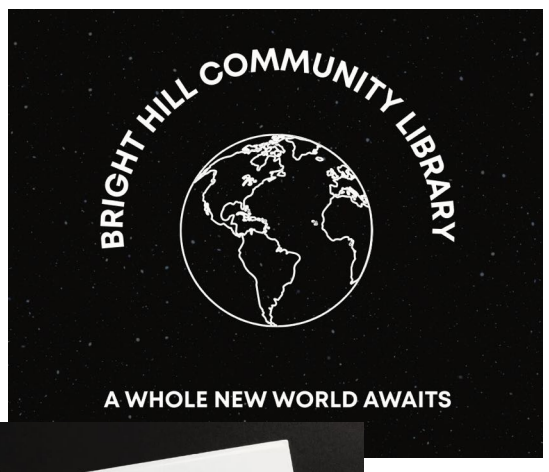
NFR: Speaking of grosses, do you see a direct response between people enjoying the show and the amount left in the hat at the end?

See BUCKLEY, continued on Page 19

LOOKING FOR: A WORKSHOP, A WRITING GROUP, A GREAT NEW BOOK AN ART OPENING, A LITERARY READING, INFORMATION FOR ALL THINGS LITERATURE, A SUMMER READING PROGRAM, LIBRARY PROGRAMS, A USED BOOKSTORE?













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Franklin Assessment Reductions and Refunds, 2022 to 2025
Delaware County Tax Levy

Landowner	Domicile	Address	Assessed	Assessment Revised	Δ	Refund	
Konstantinos Kaltsas	Resident	734 Post Rd	$650,000	$510,000	78%	$3,115	
Robert Jacobs	Resident	1625 Carey Rd	$1,100,000	$875,000	79%	$3,737	2022-2024
Robert Jacobs	Non-Res.	1870 Carey Rd	$584,000	$425,000†	73%	$897	2025
Serenity Lake LLC*	Non-Res.	1737 Tupper Hill Rd	$300,000	$150,000	50%	$3,338	
Ser. Lk. House LLC*	Non-Res.	565 Tupper Hill Rd	$275,000	$210,000	76%	$1,446	
Guy Gendron	Non-Res.	4774 E Handsome Bk Rd	$550,000	$320,000	58%	$5,118	
William Garrecht	Vacant	Olive Whitbeck Rd	$200,000	$140,000	70%	$1,335	

* Garrecht owner † subdivided parcel



Town of Franklin, Tax Certiorari
Delaware Supreme Court

Hon. Michael V. Coccoma

2002-656 (0000656/2002)	Leve, Umberto & Pauline	Disposed	06/21/2005
2003-648 (0000648/2003)	Palms Crest Foundation	Disposed	12/08/2004
2003-676 (0000676/2003)	Leve, Umberto & Pauline	Disposed	06/21/2005
2004-627 (0000627/2004)	Palms Crest Foundation	Disposed	12/09/2004
2004-705 (0000705/2004)	Leve, Umberto & Pauline	Disposed	06/21/2005
2005-678 (0000678/2005)	Palms Crest Foundation	Disposed	08/30/2005
2005-734 (0000734/2005)	Kaltsas, Komstantinos	Disposed	01/23/2007
2005-736 (0000736/2005)	Katsihtis, Geroge	Disposed	01/23/2007
2005-737 (0000737/2005)	Christie, Joseph G.	Disposed	01/23/2007
2005-738 (0000738/2005)	Takos, Teddy	Disposed	01/23/2007

Hon. John F. Lambert

EF2022-447	Jacobs, Robert et al	Disposed	09/19/2025
EF2023-517	Kaltsaa, Konstantinos	Disposed	08/23/2024
EF2023-519	Jacobs, Robert et al	Disposed	08/23/2024
EF2023-920	Kaltsas, Konstantinos	Disposed-Consolidated	09/20/2024
EF2024-590	Kaltsas, Konstantinos	Disposed-Consolidated	09/20/2024
EF2024-592	Robert Jacobs et al	Disposed-Consolidated	09/20/2024

Broome Supreme Court

Hon. Oliver N. Blaise III

EFCA2019002387	Love and Hope Animal Sanctuary, Inc.	Disposed	03/02/2020
EFCA2020001488	Love and Hope Animal Sanctuary, Inc.	Disposed	03/11/2021

Hon. Eugene D. Faughnan

EFCA2021001944	Yancey, Virginia E et al	Disposed	09/09/2022
EFCA2022001407	Yancey, Virginia E et al	Disposed	09/09/2022

May 2026

Dear Village and Town of Franklin Friends,

To keep our children's field sports and community pool amenities for all alive and thriving, the Franklin Recreation Commission is conducting our annual fundraiser.

With deep gratitude for your past contributions, we're hoping you can help us once again this year. Here's why your help is especially important today:

Our pool and pavilion are in need of maintenance and repairs to keep the facility safe and functioning for everyone. Repairs to the pool skimmer pipeline are a priority, and plans are underway for a new pool liner.

The pool is available at no charge to anyone wishing to use the facility. It is the only amenity of its kind in Franklin and Unadilla.

Our talented lifeguards ensure swimmer safety. Our popular swimming lessons and water safety instruction, conducted by qualified Water Safety Instructors, provide children with important lifelong and lifesaving skills.

Over 40 people, ages 18-plus, signed up for water aerobics last year. This year, due to popular demand, we will offer both regular water aerobics and special aqua aerobics for participants with arthritis.

Children's field sports continue to grow in popularity. In addition to T-Ball, we are planning to offer Slow Pitch Baseball in spring and summer, and Soccer in the fall. Basketball is being considered as well.

If you would like to help, please make your check payable to Franklin Recreation Commission and mail it to Village of Franklin, PO Box 886, Franklin, NY 13775.

With thanks and appreciation,
Franklin Recreation Commission

TAXES, continued from Page 3

be only substantial, not the more exacting requirement to present 'a preponderance of.'

Typically, these suits do not go to trial. Judges carefully husband their limited time to preside over trials, as well as the resources of the court necessary to hold a trial. They strongly encourage parties to reach a settlement in pre-trial conferences, as was done here.

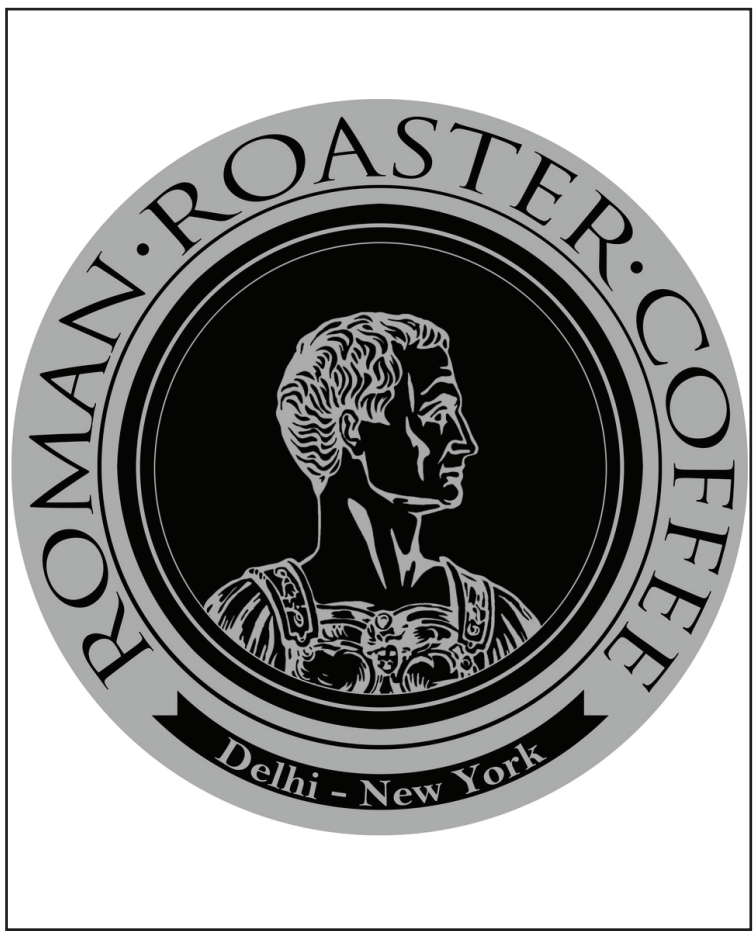
Whatever adjustments are agreed to, town government still has to raise the same tax levy, which is set by our town board. Therefore, the net savings for Franklin landowners is zero, and the tax burden is shifted from owners of larger properties to the rest of us. Total assessed valuation of real property in Franklin in 2025 was about $270 million. (At the time, Franklin assessed at 67% of market value.) Assessed value of these seven properties is a little over $2 million, or less than one percent of the town. Over 2,200 properties comprise the other 99%.

What ties these five landowners together is proximity to each other west of Treadwell. In addition, all were represented by the same attorney, John Vincent Hartzell of Nolan Heller Kauffman LLP, Albany. These seven challenges were heard before Justice John F. Lambert in Delaware Superior Court. Last September, he consolidated them into a single settlement under case EF 2022-447.

These lawsuits worked their way through the court system over four years, 2022 to 2025. All that time, our town board discussed these cases within executive session, concealing them from the townspeople. Likewise, no motion was made by our board to grant refunds of taxes. Indeed, without that resolution by Delaware County government, we might still be unaware.

In the last few decades, the Town of Franklin was plaintiff in several cases in Delaware County Supreme Court. All but two concerned assessments. There was a similar spate of tax cert lawsuits in 2002 to 2007. Also, there were two in 2020 to 2022, but these were filed in Broome County Supreme Court.

Who knew?



VOTING, continued from Page 1

was written, senators were selected by state legislatures. Direct election came later, so the exception no longer applies. While Congress has the right to make laws that change how states manage elections, they are reluctant to do that. All state elections for governor and state officials are outside the bounds of federal reach, unless there is federal legislation such as the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

States have their own approaches to organizing elections. All states except for North Dakota require eligible citizens to register to vote. In some states, voters must register prior to the election while in others they can register when they vote. Some form of I.D. is required to register: either a picture I.D. in-person or a driver's license and Social Security number online. 36 states require some form of I.D. when voting, while 14 states do not. New York does not require an I.D. to vote, except for a person's first vote. Signature verification is used to identify voters.



A big controversy this year is states changing district maps to make districts more favorable for partisan candidates. District lines are redrawn on the third year of the decade, every 10 years, based on the U.S. Census; the official population count. Redrawn districts are rolled out on the 02 year of the decade. The process has two parts: reapportionment, which allocates the number of the U.S. House's 435 seats for each state for the next decade. Redistricting is drawing maps which assign voters to a district. The difference this year is mid-decade redistricting based on state legislative gerrymandering to create more Republican districts in red states and Democratic districts in blue states. It is hard to know if this will work as planned since midterm elections tend to favor the party that is not in power.

It used to be that votes were cast on Election Day - the first Tuesday in November. Opportunities for voting have been expanded in most states. In-person voting can be on Election Day or during an early voting period. Mail-in voting, where the voter requests a ballot and is then sent it to mail in by Election Day, has become popular. Mail-in voting can be absentee voting which requires a reason why a voter can't be present or simply the opportunity submit a ballot by mail. Eight states hold elections almost entirely by mail. While there has been a push to limit mail-in voting, many states expanded this approach during the 2020 COVID pandemic.

Elections and voting are generally organized on the state level through a board of elections or a state's secretary of state. It is a routine process run by dedicated civil servants. This year there have been attempts by Congress to enact the Save Act which would require all states to require I.D.s proving U.S. citizenship. At the behest of the Administration and in retaliation for those changes, states have gerrymandered their district maps. Mail-in voting has come under attack and there are even concerns that Federal troops will be sent to monitor elections on Election Day.

Even Franklin is caught up in making big changes this year. The town board held a public hearing on June 2nd, and proposed two local laws that the town clerk and highway supervisor terms change from two years to four years. These laws will be on the ballot for the November 3rd election.

DONT FORGET TO VOTE!

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THE NEW FRANKLIN REGISTER

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FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD 2026 Meeting Schedule

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

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.

OSH, continued from Page 3

of which this construction would cost $443K.

The Stone Hall Committee intends the building as a shared community resource. It proposed to again use some of the building as a local historical museum, highlighting the hall as one of Franklin's best known landmarks..

FCS District is in the early stages of selecting an educational use to benefit students, once the interior has been brought up to code and reconfigured. Four possible uses were discussed.

Regional fine-arts center for high school students, possibly in cooperation with the Catskill Symphony and Fenimore Art Museum.

Support services focusing on academic remediation, particularly for those with disabilities.

Career Technical Education facility focused on HVAC technicians and electricians, possibly in cooperation with SUNY Delhi or SUNY Morrisville.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics learning center such as the Groton STEAM Center in northern Tompkins County.

Any one of these uses will require considerable additional funding. The committee hopes that once the building is stabilized and accessible, it will become eligible for private, state, and federal funding.

LIMITS, continued from Page 1

three people spoke, and the hearing was over in less than five minutes. One resident spoke against extending the supervisor's term, and two spoke against extensions of all three officials. Town law does not provide a means to remove officials, which would be impractical with the original two-year terms. Supervisor Smith withdrew the motion for extending term for supervisor.

If these new laws are approved by a majority of voters this fall, then the first four-year terms for town clerk and highway superintendent would begin January 1, 2027. Under Municipal Home Rule or Town Law, terms of office could be reduced back to two years, but only if a majority of the board agrees.

The town justice is covered by a separate article of state law. Regardless, he or she will continue to serve four-year terms and be elected in odd-numbered years. More confusion?

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS
AS A RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN
ATTEND TOWN BOARD MEETINGS
BE AWARE OF LOCAL ISSUES

BEAT, continued from Page 6

to help us expand kids' soccer

Fundraising. Our community pool requires significant funding to operate. Keeping the pool open is a high priority, as it is the only amenity of its kind in Franklin and Unadilla, providing swim and water safety lessons for a nominal fee. Supplies are also needed for field sports. Please see the Recreation Commission fundraising letter in this issue. Stay tuned for our next bagel sale and other fundraisers, too. Thank you for your support!

UPDATES:

Water Street Repair. To eliminate water erosion damage and spot repairs over many years, the village received New York State funding and has regraded, installed catch basins and repaved the lower part of Water Street. The emergency turnaround area at the end of the street was also repaved and will be used solely as a fire lane and emergency area.

REMINDERS:

Yard Maintenance for Yards Bordering Public Streets or Sidewalks. Village regulation states that grass, weeds and brush must be kept to a height of less than 6 inches. This applies to occupied and vacant properties as well as empty lots. If grass height exceeds 6 inches, a notice will be given that the property must be mowed. Notices will be delivered to the property within the village within 7 days prior to the village mowing said lawn and billing the property owner. Property owners who would like an alternate method of contact should email *clerk@villageoffranklin.us* and provide this information.

Village Yard Waste Dump: For Yard Waste Only. The village has installed a coded lock box for the gate key to access the yard waste dump on Otego Street. Village residents may request the code by calling the village clerk at 607-829-6776 or emailing *clerk@villageoffranklinny.us* or *dpw@villageoffrankliny.us*. The code will change periodically to ensure the facility is used only by village residents. Lawn tractors may still utilize the smaller path to access the yard waste dump. The dump accepts only leaves, dead plants, grass clippings, twigs/branches and wood less than 3 inches in diameter. Please do not leave yard waste at the gate. Garbage may not be left there.

Planning Tree Removal? Please have the tree company contact the village clerk at 607-829-6776 or email Jason Kingsbury at *dpw@villageoffranklinny.us* so that the curb stops for the water system can be marked to prevent damage.

Village Street Sweeping. Sweeping of village streets (except Rt 357/Main Street) is scheduled each April, August and October. If notified by the company in advance, no parking signs will be posted.

Leash Regulation. Village regulations require dogs to be leashed when not tethered in your yard or other enclosed area. This ensures that all residents can walk dogs safely, and ensures the safety of your pet. Please clean up and dispose of any dog feces properly.

ATV Safety and Courtesy. When riding ATVs, please respect your neighbors and their property. Ride at a safe speed and only where permission has been granted. Please remain off the sidewalks at all times.

Online Payment of Taxes and Water Bills. Visit *villageoffranklinny.us* and make these payments with a click of a button.

If You See Something, Say Something! Please contact us if you see an issue impacting village infrastructure or issues with trees, roadways, etc.

CONTACT US

Mayor: Hanna VanDeusen: *mayor@villageoffranklinny.us*

Clerk: Paula Niebanck: 607-829-6776, *clerk@villageoffranklinny.us*

Trustees: Constance (Connie) Martin: *trusteeB@villageoffranklinny.us*

Morgan McLean: *trusteeA@villageoffranklinny.us*

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at Village Hall, 141 Water Street. A ZOOM link is available. Village Hall is open every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Mayor VanDeusen holds office hours at Village Hall on Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. or by appointment if you have a concern.



OLD FRANKLIN DAY - AUGUST 29TH, 2026

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 29th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Old Franklin Day!

Start with a Free Pancake Breakfast!

The Community Bible Church at 89 Center Street will welcome you on Franklin Day with its annual free pancake breakfast, starting at 7 a.m.! In the afternoon, they'll have free root beer floats!

Shop Local

Meet local artisans, vendors, performers and community organizations and shop 'til you drop for vintage items, artwork, artisanal glass, woodcraft, home décor, clothing, jewelry, accessories, and more. Delicious locally made maple syrup products, jams, handcrafted chocolates, and other treats will also be available.



Party with the Bands

Ready to boogie? Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds Charitable Foundation, there will be great live music:

The Dirt Road Express Band will entertain with country western and rock favorites from 10 a.m. to noon.

Off the Record Band will perform rock and country classics from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW – Vintage Base Ball Game!

Come one, come all to see the Polecats (aka the Hamden 9) play against the Kingston Guards in a vintage baseball game, beginning at 12 noon on the Franklin Central School lower level sports field!



Kids' Play Activities, PLUS A Dunk Tank!

This year, In addition to our popular Bounce House, face painting, balloon art, glitter tattoos, and games for the kids, we will have a dunk tank! For now, we're keeping mum on who the 'dunkees' will be, until close to the big day! Proceeds from the dunk tank go to the Franklin Recreation Commission, to support the Franklin Community Pool and children's sports, including T-Ball, slow pitch baseball, and soccer.

Yum Eats

You won't go hungry at our food court in the Fire Department lot on Main Street. Ty's Taco-ria will be on site with a choice of scrumptious menu items. Gunner's Grub (formerly the S&S Food Truck) will have their famous Philly Cheese Steak sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, mile high fries and more. AJ's Smokin' BBQ will have ribs, pulled pork, brisket and sides. Catskill Momos will have an array of delicious Asian dumplings. The American Legion will be selling their famous barbecued chicken halves. Wash it down with awesome concoctions from Ye Olde Bubble Tea & More or a brewski from the Bittersweet Farm Brewery beer bus. The Open Doors Methodist Church is cooking up their signature hot dogs. The Tulip and the Rose Cafe on Main Street will be open. Good Taste Epicurean Market & Wine and Liquor Shop at 438 Main Street is hosting a complimentary wine and cheese tasting. There is seating at the Fire Department lot, in the Legion hall, and in front of Franklin Stage Company and Franklin Central School.

St. Paul's Famous Pie Sale: come early!

The pie bakers at St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be baking homemade apple, cherry, blueberry, peach, strawberry rhubarb and much more for the traditional pie sale fundraiser, under the big tent on the church lawn at 9 a.m. Come have a slice with a cuppa joe! Take pies home for the weekend. Last year, the St. Paul's pie bakers baked and sold over 250 pies. Go early -- pies sell out quickly!

Learn About Community Organizations

Visit the Franklin Rotary Club table to learn about Rotary's youth exchange and leadership, educational, and environmental programs and how you can get involved. Learn about the Franklin Community Education Foundation's programs over homemade lemonade. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the Greater Franklin Food Pantry will have information on community programs and resources. The Ouleout Valley Cemetery will be fundraising with T-shirt sales and other items. Check out the Franklin-Treadwell Community Conversation to learn more about their community activities.

The Library Book Sale

The Franklin Free Library on Main Street will hold their annual pop-up book sale – a great opportunity to bag your summer and fall reads!

Get Deals at Town-Wide Lawn Sales

You might find the deal of a lifetime! Maps will be available on Facebook and at the event.

Walk Around the Village

The Village of Franklin is on the National Register of Historic Places, with many lovely homes from the Victorian and Edwardian eras and 3 beautiful churches. Stroll the village to enjoy the architecture and visit our local shops. The Franklin Railroad and Community Museum will be open with historical exhibits and activities in their parking lot.

Franklin Central School All-Class Reunion

Franklin Central School alumni from any graduating year, along with guests, are invited to party under the tent on the St. Paul's Church lawn from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Enjoy a delicious reunion dinner and catch up with classmates! BYOB on premises. See related article in this issue for details. Contact *kljohns@citlink.net* or 607-434-7120 to reserve by mid-August.

THANK YOU to Our Old Franklin Day Sponsors*

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Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds Charitable Foundation

The A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation

Tom and Cathy Farinaro

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Gold

Chen-Del-O Federal Credit Union

OFD - Continued on next page

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Franklin Rotary Club
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Good Taste Epicurean Food Market & Good Taste Fine Wines & Spirits
Kenneth L. Bennett Funeral Home
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*Sponsor list as of June 18

Contact Connie Martin at *candjmartin@fastmail.com* or 201-414-1684 with any questions. Watch Facebook and *franklinny.org/ofd26* for updates.



Mayor Hanna VanDeusen enjoying Old Franklin Day festivities with clown Barb Field

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PB: Yes. It doesn't usually dip below a certain amount. People are still generous, they believe in what we're doing here whether they like the particular show or not. But when they really like the show, they're extra generous.

NFR: What else might determine your season choices?

PB: I very much produce with actors in mind who I love to work with, as in, this would be a perfect vehicle for so-and-so. I bring actors back because I love working as a company. The company here is mostly on the tech and admin side, like Scott [Holdredge] has worked here since the beginning and Alissa Perillo who was an intern in 2023 is now our stage manager and an administrative and artistic associate. It's so much easier for me if somebody else knows how the place works. I wanted a stage manager who comes back every year because that's part of the leadership team. When you're doing the grant writing and reporting, the marketing, dealing with Equity [the actors' union] and URTA [The University Resident Theater Association], you're selling all the Playbill ads, writing the Playbill copy and the season press releases, plus dealing with the building, it's like having ten departments going all the time. And there are deadlines on everything, so having a team that knows where things are and how we do things is huge. Same with casting: it's not just how somebody is on stage, it's how they are in the [rehearsal] room, so you try to make a cohesive company for that show that can enjoy each other and bring something beautiful to the stage together.

NFR: What about confronting the big issues we're faced with today? Or would you rather just do the plays you love?

PB: I think the plays I love have everything to do with today. My collaboration with Kyle Bass has been really fruitful and apt for this place. He ticks a lot of boxes for our audience: upstate New York and the Civil War and history. Period pieces can make it easier to talk about some issue or other. When you have a bit of distance, it feels safer. And Kyle has a beautiful use of language. *Possessing Harriet* was our second highest grossing play. I think people are proud that we've produced two of his plays and have another one premiering this summer.

NFR: Hometown boy.

PB: Almost, as his great-great-grandfather lived in Delhi. But it's baby steps, baby steps. For instance, *Much Ado* really is about misinformation and the social fabric being torn by it, and how women carry all that, but…Shakespeare? Huge cast and we don't have enough housing. But it's a play I love, so I said, I'll adapt it myself. I got it down to nine actors, then couldn't get it down any further and still like it. One reason I'm in it is I don't have to house myself. Every year the question is, is there even going to be any housing? It's not just that it's expensive, it simply does not exist. And with our [Actors] Equity contract, if actors are not housed a quarter of a mile or closer to the theater – i.e., within the village - they have to be provided with a vehicle.

NFR: What about future challenges for Franklin Stage?

PB: Funding is always a challenge, of course. New York state cut funding to many organizations by 40% two years ago, ours included. At the same time, there is a widening gap of wealth, so we see bigger gifts coming from people who have it because they have more of it. There's also the challenge of capacity. It would be great to have a team of three or four full-time people here, but we don't currently have capacity for that. We'd have to grow our programming, but with a tiny staff we're pretty maxed.

NFR: That is the LORT model: artistic director and managing director or general manager, a team.

PB: You really have to grow your capacity to do that, though. We're not there yet.

NFR: If a huge legacy came your way, what would be the next wonderful thing to do with it?

PB: Well, it might sound very pedestrian, but if I had my genie bottle, somebody would donate some housing, so we didn't have to worry about that anymore. We could rent it out during the year - maybe for nine months to somebody at SUCO and say we need it in the summer. And it would be great to increase our endowment, so more of our budget comes in regularly and sustainably, which might allow increased capacity, and therefore increased programming. But despite all our limitations, we're not in trouble. After 30 years, that is something.

NFR: It's a great achievement, keeping this idea alive for so long.

PB: Thanks to our supporters and this community: they are the real producers of this theater. Whatever you put in the hat might be covering for somebody who can't pay and maybe next year, you'll be the one who can't pay. This creates community, not just the community of being in a dark room together watching a show, but that you come with this idea of I'm going to give what I can and maybe a little more for another person who might not be able to afford it. That's the idea that's most important of all.

The New Franklin Register

The Newsletter of Franklin Local

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HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

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What are we about?

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

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

franklinlocal.org

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Distancing at the P.O.: a COVID moment *Photo by Tony Breuer*

Five Star Subaru
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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

Date	Location	Acres	Type	Assess.	Sale	Seller	Buyer
1/30/26	98 Rod & Gun Club Rd	3.60	1 Family Res	125,000	81,000	TerBush, S. Craig	Hall, Brittany E
2/09/26	2260 E Handsome Bk Rd	57.29	Rural Res	24,000	575,000	Villaverde, Fernando	11343 Cherry Canyon Court
2/13/26	Frank Slawson Rd	85.00	Rural Vac>10	73,000	60,000	Nowicki, Monika	Dow Dales Family Trust **(R)**
2/13/26	368 Swart Hollow Rd	10.70	Mfg Housing	52,000	108,000	DiPierro, Daniel	Dow Dales Family Trust
2/23/26	1937 Gibson Hill Rd **(2)**	15.66	1 Family Res		235,000	Barnard, Douglas	Mendez, James
3/04/26	Tupper Hill Rd	65.40	Rural Vac>10	63,000	90,000	Agens, Florence	D'Amato, Thomas
3/05/26	9609 State Hwy 357	1.00	Vac w/Imprv	65,000	75,000	Batson, Mathew A	Baccello Plumbing & Heating
3/13/26	64 Olin Evans Rd	17.00	Mfg Housing	68,000	97,000	Mills, Kelly	Martin, Kayla
4/01/26	397 Main St	0.90	2 Family Res	121,000	295,000	Lonely House Guild LLC	Stoneback, Thomas
4/21/26	Campbell Rd	12.58	Rural Vac<10	19,000	37,500	Tajada, Juan	Shaw, Craig
4/23/26	State Hwy 357	7.00	Vac w/Imprv	31,000	80,000	Kent, Matthew	Klaessig, Karl
5/01/26	2925 Freer Hollow Rd	5.20	1 Family Res	53,000	16,000	Robinson, Lyndon E	Hall, William Anthony **(R)**
5/12/26	6199 County Hwy 16	69.71	Rural Res	196,000	550,000	Carbine, William S	Blondel, Audrey S
5/27/26	1847 Tupper Hill Rd	93.40	Rural Res	165,000	345,000	Heinrich, Patricia	Cisowski, Patricia
	(2) Franklin & Sidney						**(R)** Between Relatives



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