The NEW Franklin Register.

The Newspaper of Franklin Local

Vol. XX, No. 3 Franklin, New York FALL 2026

'INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE'

SAVING HEAD START?

By Aron Berlinger

Photos by the author

Sitting on the porch of the Head Start Center (HS) during Old Franklin Day, Rebecca Hotaling, Food Nutrition Service Worker, observed, "We are still licensed for 14 kids, if only we could fill the spots."

Rebecca started the day with four but picked up one more child that day. She smiled. "I personally know a good number of kids that are now grown-up and now I have their kids and grandkids." She has been with the program for 29 years.

As we chatted, the new head teacher Ali, Franklin born, showed up. Ali works with a teaching assistant and two classroom aides, making the staff-child ratio one on one.

The Franklin Center is located in one room of the former parish house rented from the Episcopal church next door on Institute Street. Demographic trends and the implementation of universal pre-K by New York State at the Franklin Central School have depleted the enrollment at the Head Start center from 14 3-to-5-year-olds to just 5 over the last two years. In addition, the Trump administration's intention to deregulate Head Start is raising fears about the survival of this venerable anti-poverty program, established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 as part of his War on Poverty. Launched nationwide under the Office of Economic Opportunity, the program expected a few thousand children but enrolled more than 561,000.

Currently, there are eight centers in our county, including Franklin's, funded by the federal government and run by Delaware Opportunities Inc. (DO), a private nonprofit organization which struggles to keep up with federal regulations. The government requires Head Start programs to maintain their fully-funded enrollment for six consecutive months. If unable to do so, the program can petition for a "change of scope" or target population, reduce the number of funded spaces, or make other changes.

Washington funds a countywide enrollment of 178 children in HS. The average actual enrollment hovers between 75-95. Two-year-olds can qualify if they turn three by De-

See SAVE, continued on Page 14



The warm and friendly Head Start playroom

NFR

TREADWELL TRIUMPHS!

With Million Dollar Grant

By Brian Brock

Photos by Craig Brock

The hamlet of Treadwell needs a new water system.

A replacement project would be funded by a combination of cash and loans. Any loans would have to repaid by the users in the Treadwell Water District. Therefore, residents are seeking as much grant funding as possible and preferably a no-interest loan for any remainder.

DOH Scoring

In late August, NYS Department of Health released the draft of its *Intended Use Plan for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, Federal Fiscal Year 2027* (IUP), which runs from 10/1/26 to 9/30/27. Annually, DWSRF provides hundreds of millions of dollars in loans to water-supply systems in New York, many low-interest or no-interest. Also, it awards a few grants in hardship cases. To this end, each year, the State Department of Health evaluates which communities are hardship cases, aka disadvantaged communities (DAC). In addition, it scores proposed projects. Upstate, DACs have a median household income less than 80% of the upstate MHI of $84,574

See WATER, con't on Page 17



The Chlorination Shack on property of the Town of Franklin



INTERESTED IN IMPROVEMENT?

By Amber Gray

Photo by the author

The Franklin Improvement Society (FIS), a registered 501(c)(3), has expanded with several subcommittees, each with its own activities. If you're interested in one or want to head a project that falls within our mission statement, please come to a meeting.

Franklin Memorial Park and Edible Walking Trail: We maintain the park and trail seasonally with new plantings, weeding, trimming, mulching, and fountain maintenance.

Main Street Barrels: Members fertilize and plant the barrels each spring and summer, water throughout the season, and clean out the barrels before winter.

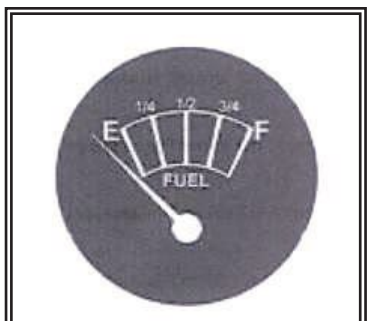
Main Street Benches: Members have been removing failing benches and exploring options for replacement.

Village Trees: We are currently exploring locations for new tree plantings along Main Street. Property owners will be contacted this spring with more information.

Village Signs: The three entry signs to the village are deteriorating and we are exploring options for rehabilitation or replacement.

Events: FIS has helped with the Easter Egg Hunt and Holiday Stroll for many years, with the Stroll being an important fundraiser for FIS. Recently, FIS has been approached by coordinators of other events asking for additional support and FIS is expanding its umbrella to welcome them in.

FIS meets the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. in the Open Doors Methodist Church, corner of Main and Water Streets, which is handicapped accessible. New members and interested Franklin residents are always welcome.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

REGULAR FEATURES:

Neighbors' View	Pg. 2
Town Meeting Dates	Pg. 2
Green Banks Garden	Pg. 5
Village Board Beat	Pg. 5
Kitchen Basics	Pg. 6
Inside Local Realty	Pg. 7
Real Property Sales	Pg.20

LOCAL NEWS:

Town Board Terms	Pg. 2
Old Stone Hall	Pg. 3
SC Downhome Fest	Pg. 5
School Shenanigans	Pg. 7
Many Mansions	Pg. 7
ABCs of Voting, Part 3	Pg. 8
Democracy Thoughts	Pg. 8
Town Taxes 2027	Pg.13
Christmas Stroll	Pg.14
Assessment Scorecard	Pg.16

FOCUS ON ENERGY:

Constitution Chronicle	Pg. 8

SUSTAINABILITY:

Growing the Pie	Pg. 3
Food Pantry Report	Pg. 6
Stewards of the Land	Pg.10
Women's Water Walk	Pg.11
Farmers' Market News	Pg.15

LOCAL ARTS:

Book Reviews	Pg.12
Poet's Corner	Pg.12
Catskill Cats	Pg.13

Your Neighbor's View...

To the Editor:

On Sunday, September 20, I joined the Women's Water Walk at La Patrona in Sidney for a welcoming reception. Then, on Tuesday, September 22, I was honored to walk with indigenous grandmothers and people of all ages and genders, from Unadilla to Franklin. It was a powerful and empowering experience I will never forget.

I have spoken with individuals from across our district who say no to the Constitution Pipeline claiming eminent domain through their private property, trenching through waterways, threatening the Susquehanna watershed and all its people, plants, and animals. This project will not benefit local people; it only seeks to take from them as the fracked gas is sent elsewhere and drinking water is compromised along the way.

Sincerely,
Vicki Davis
Sidney Center
Democratic candidate for New York State Representative, District 121



Vicki Davis speaks to the gathering at Franklin's Open Doors Church

The New Franklin Register

NFR page:
https://franklinlocal.org/nfr-all/

Franklin Local

Franklin Local homepage:
https://franklinlocal.org

To the Editor:

With executive orders "Declaring a National Energy Emergency, Executive Order No. 14156" and "Unleashing American Energy, Executive Order No. 14,154", the Trump administration and federal agencies have worked to reshape the playing field for natural gas infrastructure buildout.

FERC has been very busy lining up liquid natural gas (LNG) port projects. As of October 6th, here's the count for LNG Export Port projects: 8 existing, 8 approved and under construction, 9 approved but not under construction, 8 proposed, and 3 in pre-filing status.

Indeed, eia.gov states: "The daily rate of LNG exports in July 2026 was 18.7% higher than the daily rate in July 2025, the highest rate for the month of July since we began tracking LNG exports in 1997."

Exporting gas allows for pricing at world market prices, which puts upward pressure on domestic prices. How does that lower gas prices for us?

Furthermore, weatherization requirements to mitigate "freeze-offs" did not make it into FERC's Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines, effective July 2026. As we saw from Winter Storm FERN of this year, natural gas infrastructure remains vulnerable to winter weather, these vulnerabilities stifling gas flow and causing gas prices to spike.

Leaving gas infrastructure vulnerable to winter weather, thus allowing for pipeline operators to declare *force majeure*, thus causing gas price spikes? How does that lower gas prices for us, especially in the Northeast?

Sincerely,
Jan Mulroy
Franklin

Franklin Recreation Commission
PO Box 886
Franklin, NY 13775
Phone: 607-829-6776

October 2026

Dear Village and Town of Franklin Friends,

To keep our children's field sports and community pool amenities alive and thriving, the Franklin Recreation Commission is conducting a fall 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 require ongoing maintenance and improvements to keep the facility safe and functioning. The pool needs a new liner, estimated to cost $175,000. We hope to add new decking, a splash pad, and additional fencing, estimated to cost $700,000.

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 life-saving skills.

Over 40 persons aged 18-plus signed up for water aerobics last year. By popular demand, we will offer both regular water aerobics and special aqua aerobics for participants with arthritis this year.

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 in Franklin is being considered too.

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

2026 Town Board Meetings

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

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.

LOCAL ELECTION NEWS: 2026 BALLOT PROPOSALS

By Carla Nordstrom

There will be two questions on the Town of Franklin ballot this year. Their purpose is to extend the terms of the Town Highway Superintendent and the Town Clerk from two years to four years. These proposals were brought up at the Town Board Meeting on May 5, 2026, with a public hearing held June 2, 2026.

Proposal Number One, A Question:
"Shall the Town of Franklin in the County of Delaware increase the term of office of the Town Highway Superintendent from two (2) years to four (4) years, with the extension taking effect with the term of office beginning January 1, 2027?"

Proposal Number Two, A Question:
"Shall the Town of Franklin in the County of Delaware increase the term of office of the Town Clerk from two (2) years to four (4) years, with the extension taking effect with the term of office beginning January 1, 2027?"

I have been told that these proposals were recommended by Highway Supervisor Jamie Archibald, who thought two years is not long enough to learn how to perform the duties of these positions. There has been little turnover in these positions and the current Highway Supervisor previously served as Deputy Highway Supervisor for a number of years.

Franklin voters will have the opportunity to decide these questions on Tuesday, November 3rd, Election Day.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News
Local Events
Local Issues
Local Concerns



SOMETIMES PRAISED, SOMETIMES MALIGNED

Opinion: The Save Stone Hall Committee

The Save Stone Hall Committee was formed three years ago by graduates of Franklin Central School and the Delaware Literary Institute (DLI). We came together because we have watched our alma mater slowly deteriorate before our eyes. As the decades have passed and maintenance funding has become increasingly difficult to secure, we felt an obligation to step forward, raise funds, stabilize the building, and offer the school a viable alternative for preserving Stone Hall.

The school has pushed back on each of our proposals because it believes it can develop its own plan and secure its own funding. To date, several ideas have been suggested by the school, but no definitive plan has been presented, nor has funding been identified for any of those ideas.

Some members of the community praise our efforts, while others strongly disagree with our approach. The committee has always believed that the best possible outcome would be for the school itself to restore Stone Hall and return it to active use. Unfortunately, based on everything we have seen over the years, we do not believe that outcome is likely to occur.



Antique photo of Old Stone Hall

Meanwhile, the building continues to deteriorate day by day. The committee has repeatedly asked whether there is a timeline or deadline for a final decision regarding Stone Hall's future. To date, no clear answer has been provided.

At the most recent public meeting, FCS Superintendent Bryan Ayres explained that the school intends to hire a project management company to develop an accurate estimate of the cost to rehabilitate Stone Hall so it could once again be used as a school facility.

The committee believes those costs will be extraordinarily high and may ultimately prove beyond the school's financial means. Nevertheless, we recognize that this estimate is the next step in the process. Until that information becomes available, there is little more the committee can do except wait, review the findings, and determine what options remain for moving forward.

Throughout this process, our goal has never changed. We want to see Stone Hall preserved before it is lost forever. Whether that preservation comes through the efforts of the school or through a partnership with the community is less important than ensuring that action is taken before time and deterioration make restoration impossible.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS
AS A RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

ATTEND TOWN BOARD MEETINGS
BE AWARE OF LOCAL ISSUES

HOW TO GROW THE PIE

By Justin Kamm

What Economic Impact Actually Means

Imagine a family comes to town for the weekend. They stay at a local lodging property, eat at a restaurant, buy gas, visit a farm, and shop. Their money keeps moving. The lodging owner pays a housekeeper. The restaurant pays a server. The farm hires workers. Those people buy groceries, hire contractors, and spend money at other businesses nearby.

One visitor can help a surprising number of people. That is economic impact.

It matters even more in a rural community because our economic pie is small. We have fewer businesses, customers, workers, and opportunities for new money to enter the local economy. A single restaurant, farm, lodging property, or festival can have an outsized impact.

Small towns grow when they bring money in from outside and give it reasons to stay. Tourism, agriculture, remote workers, manufacturers, and businesses selling products outside the region can all do that.

Growth usually comes through dozens of smaller projects. Each adds customers, jobs, tax dollars, or reasons for someone to remain here. That is how the pie gets bigger.

How We Chase the Pie Away

Rural communities sometimes make economic growth much harder than it needs to be.

Someone wants to open a business. They are prepared to invest their savings, improve a property, hire people, and attract customers. Then the process begins.

Property taxes are already high. There are permit fees, inspections, applications, studies, meetings, and delays. One office gives an answer and another gives a different one. Rules written decades ago are enforced without much thought about whether they still make sense.

A planning board can spend months debating something that one reasonable conversation could resolve. An entrepreneur can spend more time navigating government than building the business.

Rules are necessary. Public health, fire safety, clean water, and responsible development protect us. The problem begins when the process itself becomes the product. Every department may believe it is simply doing its job. The entrepreneur experiences the combined cost: taxes, fees, lawyers, engineers, lost revenue, changing requirements, and months of uncertainty.

Eventually, some people build elsewhere. We lose far more than one project. We lose jobs, customers, property improvements, tax revenue, and the money that business would have circulated locally.

Government is only half the equation. Some residents want economic development right up until someone tries to develop something.

A lodging property creates traffic. A restaurant creates noise. A farm event brings outsiders. Housing changes a neighborhood. A new business competes with an existing one.

Some concerns are legitimate. But there is a difference between solving a problem and looking for a reason to stop something.

At planning board meetings and on town Facebook pages, rumors, personal attacks, and constant negativity send a clear message to anyone considering investing here: take your money somewhere else. That reputation spreads. A community can become known as a place where doing anything is expensive, political, and exhausting.

Everyone reaches for a piece of the pie before anyone has finished baking it.

A Better Way

Our first question should be: How can we help a responsible idea succeed while protecting the legitimate interests of the community?

Government should provide clear rules, reasonable oversight, predictable costs, and understandable timelines. An entrepreneur should know what is required, who is responsible, and approximately how long approval should take. Inspectors should help businesses solve problems. Planning boards should separate genuine community concerns from personal preferences. Fees should reflect actual costs. Rules should address real risks.

Community members have a role too. Growth will occasionally create traffic, noise, unfamiliar faces, and inconvenience. A town cannot become more prosperous while remaining exactly the same.

We should judge projects by their full impact. Will they create jobs or housing? Bring customers? Improve property? Support other businesses? Add to the tax base? Give young people another reason to stay?

We should also ask what happens when we say no. The building stays empty. The visitor spends money elsewhere. The young family moves away. The tax base shrinks, and everyone who remains carries more of the burden. Doing nothing has a cost.

A neighbor can raise a concern and help find a solution. A town official can explain the path forward. Existing businesses can welcome newcomers instead of treating every customer as something they already own.

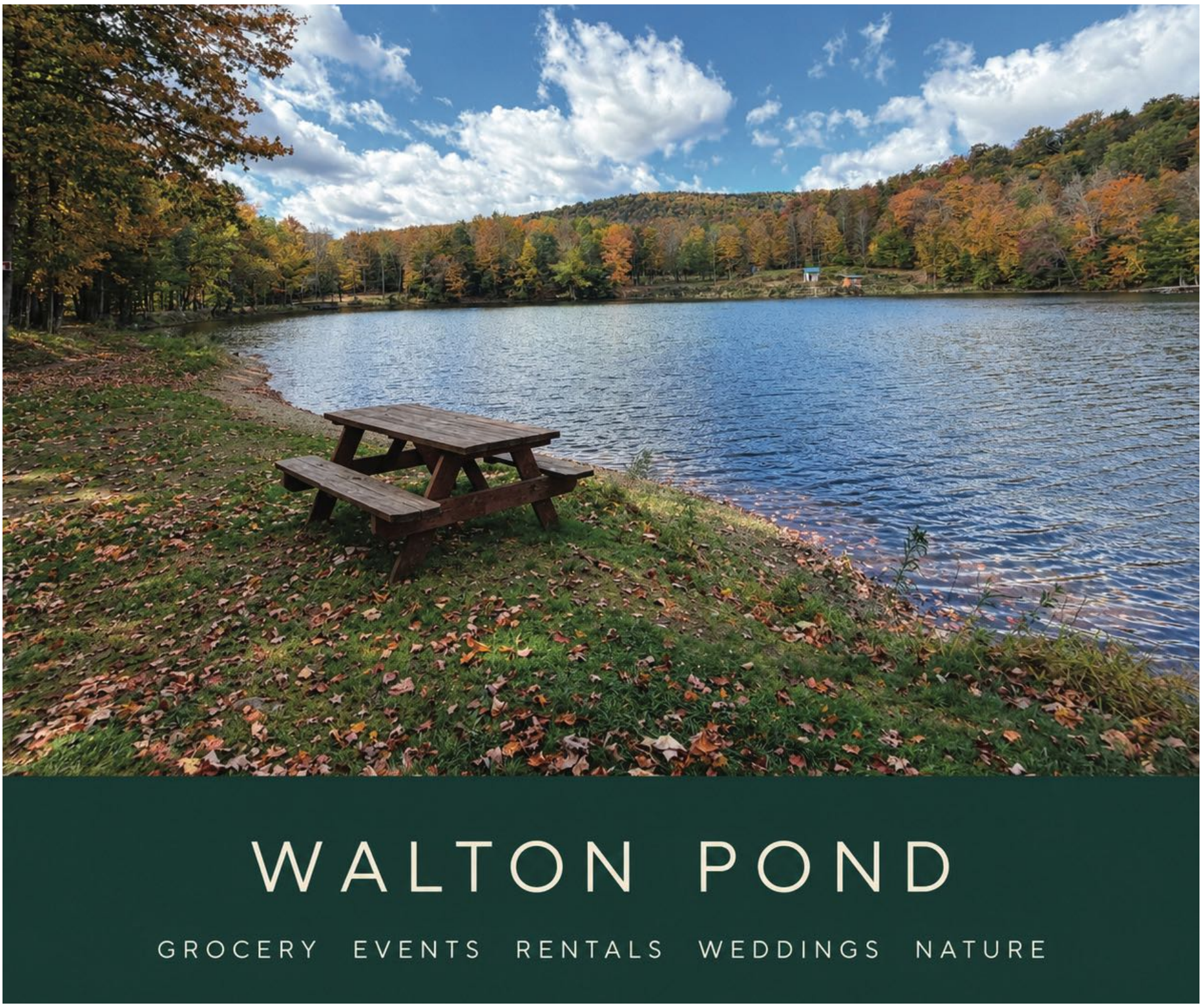
This means developing a bias toward helping good ideas work, not approving every project.

Our economic pie is small. We should be especially careful about unnecessary red tape, fees, hostility, and delay, and appreciate people willing to risk their money, time, and energy creating something here.

We can keep fighting over the pieces we already have.

Or we can help grow the pie.





SIDNEY CENTER DOWN HOME FALL FEST

By Carol Ohmart-Behan Photos by the author

A sunny and appropriately cool Sunday, October 4th, provided the picture-perfect backdrop for Sidney Center's fourth annual Down Home Fall Fest. Once again members of The Uplift Collective were joined by friends and neighbors to offer harvest season fun for children of all ages.

T.U.C. would like to offer special thanks to Ellen Harrington and Randy Hulse for sharing their always-marvelous music; to Mike Wood, Sidney Historical Society, and Gerry Byrnes, Maywood Historical Group, for sharing wonderful and interesting items from their respective museums. Also, to all the local businesses and individuals for their raffle basket donations; and a special balloon-hats-off to Chee Chee the Clown (aka Chet Delameter), who once again donated his unique talents to the day.











A GARDEN LIBRARY

When I first started gardening, you couldn't research perennials on the internet or view gardening webinars. There were no blogs or Substacks. To discover garden plants that I might want to grow, I studied nursery catalogs. The White Flower Farm catalog was a nice one with tons of photographs and good plant descriptions. I learned about types of bulbs by studying the offerings in the John Scheepers catalog. Eventually I started reading *Horticulture* and *Fine Gardening* magazines. However, my learning really began with books.

My perennial bible is *Perennials for American Gardens* by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nicolas H. Ekstrom. This book of over 3,000 plants lists the species, cultivars, and hybrids for each genus, and gives a few important details, like size, hardiness, and flower color. Another excellent perennial reference is *Armitage's Garden Perennials*, by Allan M. Armitage. It contains Armitage's favorite perennials rather than being an exhaustive reference guide. It includes a great many color photographs, along with his invaluable opinions of each plant. These days you can just google when you want to know about a particular plant, but then you'll miss out on Armitage's recommendations.

I think every perennial gardener should read Tracy DiSabato-Aust's book titled *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*. This book introduced me to the idea that perennials can be pruned and thinned just like a well-maintained tree. It has information on planting and maintenance, as well as her pruning recommendations for numerous individual species.

There's much to learn in William Cullina's book *Understanding Perennials*. He discusses the science behind plants, with topic headings like "The soil is my stomach" and "Why do the most expensive plants die the fastest?" It is a gorgeous book, filled with colorful photography and good writing.

One of the joys of planning a new garden is choosing your shrubs and trees. I spent a lot of time with *Flowering Shrubs and Small Trees* by Isabel Zucker. Zucker covers how to plant and maintain shrubs and small trees. These guidelines are followed by sections describing her specific plant recommendations. To expand on this plant list, good reference books include *The Hillier Gardener's Guide to Trees and Shrubs* and also *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*.

Gardening with Conifers by Adrian Bloom is one of my favorite books, along with his later book *Foggy Bottom - A Garden to Share.* I have had to learn repeatedly that many conifers will not survive the heavy wet clay in my garden, but I enjoy looking at Bloom's landscapes. His books contain a wealth of information on conifer species.

A book that taught me about gardening through the seasons is *A Way to Garden* by Margaret Roach. The original book was published in 1998. An updated edition published in 2019 has more content. It's all here: how to test the vitality of old seeds, what plants are best for feeding birds, how to prune clematis, what are good living mulches, how to overwinter tender plants, how to winterize a small pond, and on and on. This is one of the best gardening primers. Her website (AWayToGarden.com) has even more information, plus a long-running podcast where Roach interviews interesting gardeners, scientists and other folks.

I also learned and copied shamelessly from *The Self-Taught Gardener: Lessons from a Country Garden* by Sydney Eddison. For years, my front garden path had a curved edging of lamb's ear, imitating the one in Eddison's border. I finally had to give mine up when that garden grew too shady. Eddison is a good writer, and she shares lots of information about how she managed her garden.

GREEN BANKS GARDENING



With Deborah Banks

Plant-Driven Design by Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden approaches garden design from the perspective of putting plants first, rather than adhering to a style or an architecture. I love this book for its beauty, its thought-provoking essays, and its usefulness. There are over 35 lists in the book, with names such as "Junipers to Love," "Veil Plants," "Humidity-Tolerant Succulents," "Bulbs for Meadows," and "Long-Term Standouts."

There are more recent books that provide me with inspiration. *The Layered Garden* by David Culp details the plantings in his large Pennsylvania garden, describing how he achieves four seasons of interest with the different layers of trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcovers, vines, and bulbs. *A Tapestry Garden* by Marietta and Ernie O'Byrne similarly documents their beautiful garden in Oregon. Also, *The Intimate Garden* by Gordon and Mary Hayward shows how they designed and planted each "room" in their Vermont garden.

Finally, *The Living Landscape* by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy has changed how I think about gardening. It discusses the importance of using a preponderance of native plants in our gardens, and then proceeds to show how it is done.

So many garden books have been important to me. And there's always more to learn!

Editor's Note: For an amusing critique of the LANGUAGE of garden catalogues, most of which no longer exist, treat yourself to Katharine S. White's essays in "Onward and Upward in the Garden," published in 1958. Ms. White was fiction editor of The New Yorker from 1925 to 1960.

VILLAGE BOARD BEAT

with
Mayor Hanna VanDeusen
and
Village Trustee Connie Martin



The leaves are changing, the nights are cooler – fall has officially arrived! We hope you have had a great summer and are enjoying the beautiful fall weather!

Reminder -- Yard Waste Dump

In addition to cameras, the village has installed a coded lock box for the gate key at the dump entrance 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@villageoffranklinny.us.

The code will change periodically to ensure that the dump is used only by village residents. Lawn tractors may still use the smaller path to access the yard waste dump. The dump is used only for grass clippings, leaves, and branches less than 3 inches in diameter. Please do not leave yard waste at the gate. Garbage is not permitted to be left either in or outside the dump. These steps were taken to ensure continued authorized use of the area. We appreciate everyone's continued assistance in preventing the yard waste dump from reaching capacity.

Welcome, Chris McNamara: the village's new Dog Control Officer

Please note that Chris is dog control officer for the village only. He cannot assist with dog control outside village limits. Contact Chris at 607-386-9795.

Village Leash Regulation

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

Winter Parking and Snow Shoveling

From November 1 to April 1, no overnight parking on village streets. This ensures that roads can be cleared in early morning in the event of snow. In the event of a major snowfall, village streets will be maintained (as much as the storm allows) until 7:00 p.m. and resumed by 6:00 a.m. the following morning. When there is significant snowfall, please avoid parking on streets to enable full plowing of streets.

Sidewalks must be kept clear of snow and ice by 9:00 a.m. daily. In line with our local law for snow removal, notices will be delivered to any property within the village if its sidewalks are not cleared. If not cleared within 24 hours, the village will clear the sidewalk and a fee will be charged to the property owner. Property owners should make sure to email their contact information to clerk@villageoffranklinny.us.

Thank You

Recreation Commission. We had stellar attendance at the community pool and water aerobics classes were at capacity! Thanks to Pool Director Joanna Banks, Water Aerobics Instructor Linda Worden and our efficient team of lifeguards for keeping everyone safe while enjoying the pool. Kendall Beadle, Field Sports Director, coached T-Ball this spring with quite a large team. Interest in field sports continues to grow – thank you, Kendall! To keep our field sports thriving, volunteer coaches are needed. Please email mayor@villageoffranklinny.us if interested.

July 3rd 250th Anniversary Celebration. Elected officials, representatives, and students from Franklin Central School and others joined the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum (RCM) in unveiling a beautiful monument in Franklin Park, honoring soldiers from Franklin who fought in the Revolutionary War. Special thanks to John Campbell of RCM and FCS teacher J.J. Laing and his History of Franklin class for making this happen! Attendees enjoyed a cookout hosted by the Franklin Fire Department and the Village of Franklin.

Old Franklin Day. We had a very successful event with over 1,000 attendees, 2 great bands, delicious food, and close to 50 vendors. Thanks to our great community organizations, sponsors and volunteers for making OFD possible!

Franklin Harvest and Heritage Festival. As NFR goes to press, this first-ever festival will have taken place on Saturday, October 17, with a variety of activities, food and vendors. Thank you to the organizers for arranging this festival!

Key Dates and Reminders

Halloween, Saturday, October 31st. If you are handing out candy, please turn your porch light on so trick-or-treaters know to stop by. There will be a table/treat event outdoors on In-

See BEAT, continued on Page 18

kitchen basics with Carla Nordstrom

FALL DINNERS WITH GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Did you know this past summer was the longest possible? Memorial Day was on its earliest Monday and Labor Day on its latest, giving us 15 full weeks of summer. I am saddened by the season change from summer to fall. One consolation is being able to use volunteer fruits from the early fall to flavor dishes that require cooking at higher heats.

I have an old apple tree that puts out fruit depending on how much rain there has been. This year was pretty good. My apples don't look appealing with their spots and nicks, and aren't good eating apples but they work well when cooked. Also, small bunches of bitter grapes hang from a tree, begging to be used.

I love pork with apples in autumn. This year, I used pork chops from the DeDominicis of Wild View Farms, purchased at the Franklin Farmers' Market.

Pork Chops with Apples and Onions

In a large frying pan over low heat, sauté 1 Tbl. butter and 1 peeled, cored, and sliced apple sprinkled with lemon juice. (Usually one apple will suffice, but my apples have so many brown spots to cut out that I use two.) Once browned and soft, set aside in a separate dish.

Add 1 Tbl. olive oil to the frying pan and sauté 1 large sliced onion until slightly browned and soft. Remove to another dish.

Add 1 Tbl. olive oil to the pan and sauté pork chops at medium heat until brown on both sides. Add 1 cup of white wine, the sautéed onions, and a couple of sprigs of fresh thyme. Cover the pan and simmer at low temperature until the pork chops are cooked through. Remove the chops and onion to a platter and cover with the pan lid to keep in the heat.

Bring the heat back up to medium to reduce pan liquid. Swirl in 1 Tbl. of Dijon mustard and 1 Tbl. heavy cream. When well combined, add the apples to warm them up. Pour over the chops. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve.

I like to serve this dish with roasted sliced potatoes with garlic and oil. I found some volunteer Adirondak Red potatoes in the garden which made this dish especially delicious.



Pork Chops with Apples and Onions *Photo by Andy Bobrow*



Chicken with Wild Grapes & Ground Cherries *Photo by Andy Bobrow*

Chicken with Wild Grapes and Ground Cherries

It is hard to figure out a use for wild grapes that are more seed than grape. But when cooked down, they have a tart flavor that can enhance sauces served with chicken or meat.

In a small saucepan, combine 1 cup of washed wild grapes and ¼ cup of water. Cook over medium low heat for approximate 5 minutes until grapes begin to burst. Strain the juice into a small bowl and set aside.

Thinly slice one small onion and sauté over low heat in a large frying pan with 1 Tbl. olive oil. Remove to a plate when onions are lightly browned and soft.

Add 1 Tbl. olive oil to the frying pan and sauté boneless chicken breast (if thick they can be split horizontally) or thighs until browned and cooked through. Set aside on a platter and cover the chicken with foil or a pan lid.

Add 2/3 cup of white wine to deglaze the pan, add a couple of sprigs of fresh thyme, 2 Tbls. of grape syrup, the sautéed onions, and a couple handfuls of peeled ground cherries. Cook until heated through.

Pour sauce over the chicken and sprinkle with 2 Tbls. of finely chopped parsley.

Bon Appetit!

LET'S EAT BREAKFAST OUT

By Craig Brock

Have you ever, when being asked by your SO (significant other), "Can we eat breakfast out?", had the awful realization that it's before 9 a.m.? Or worse, it's the dreaded Monday?

Hopefully, by looking in my crystal ball (Google), I will be able to offer the names of the few and far between restaurants that will let you say "Yes" with confidence.

Yes, we are dealing with that Southern Tier curse that villages are few and far between. But, in Delaware County, you'll find that restaurants in general open at 6 a.m., with some recalcitrants opening as late as 9 a.m.

Restaurants in western Delaware County sometimes have a brunch on weekends, but that's for another time.

OPEN FOR BREAKFAST IN DELAWARE COUNTY

Roasted Coffee House	Sidney	6 a.m.
The Wakeman Coffee Co.	Sidney	7 a.m.
Club 55	Sidney	8 a.m.
Trackside Dining	Sidney	6 a.m.
The Donut Hut & Bakery	Unadilla	6 a.m.
Smiley's Quick Store	Unadilla	8 a.m.
The Village Table	Unadilla	8 a.m.
Jake's Deli	Otego	6 a.m.
McDonald's	Walton	6 a.m.
Sub Hubb	Walton	6 a.m.
Walton Diner	Walton	7 a.m.
Townsend Street Market	Walton	8:30 a.m.
Molto Molto	Walton	9 a.m.
Magpies on Pink Street	Delancey	9 a.m.
Dunkin'	Delhi	5 a.m.
McDonald's	Delhi	6 a.m.
Bagels n Cream	Delhi	6:30 a.m.
Bakers Grimm	Delhi	7 a.m.
Hollow	Delhi	9 a.m.

Not included are service stations (some of which are open 24 hours a day)

GREATER FRANKLIN FOOD PANTRY:

An Increased Need

By Amber Gray Photo by the author

The Greater Franklin Food Pantry's mission is to help alleviate food emergencies for local families, achieved not only through our weekly open hours, but also through community partnerships and events. The pantry has seen continued growth in patronage, volunteers, and services over the past year, with 264 neighbors visiting January-September 2026, a 66% increase in visits compared to the same period in 2025.

Regular Open Hours

Our current hours are every Friday, 2-4 p.m. and the second Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Those who are unable to visit during either Friday or Saturday open hours are welcome to call us to make an appointment for an alternate time. Please note that the pantry will be closed Friday, November 27 and December 25, 2026, and January 1, 2027, for the holidays, but if you are experiencing a food emergency, please call us.

Senior Harvest Box Program

2026 was the pantry's second year participating in Delaware County Office for the Aging's Harvest Box program for seniors. Every Wednesday, June through August, registered seniors met with volunteers to pick up their boxes and any other pantry items they needed. This program was greatly appreciated by our senior neighbors who received super-fresh, local farm produce for their meals. If you would like to see this program continue,



please consider donating to OFA online or via check at https://www.delcony.gov/departments/ofa/ofa.htm in support of the Harvest Box program.

Teachers' Snack Cupboards

This is the pantry's third year distributing funds to Franklin Central School District (FCS) to help offset costs to teachers and staff who are providing snacks for their students.

Backpack Program

In 2022 and 2025, the pantry supported FCS' Backpack Program, which sends students home with snacks and easy-to-prepare boxed meals every weekend. It is anticipated that we will continue to support this program. In addition to pantry

See PANTRY, continued on Page 18

INSIDE LOCAL REAL ESTATE with SUSAN BARNETT

THE VIEW FROM HERE

I am writing this on the day the Federal Reserve raised interest rates a quarter of a point – and signaled it won't be the last hike.

A scan of various publications and sites that claim to have a finger on the pulse of the upstate market tells me very little. They seem to agree that the market is tending toward balance, with prices not fluctuating wildly, no huge oversupply of properties for sale nor a huge influx of buyers.

But let's talk locally. You can see the sales in our area in every issue of the New Franklin Register. The numbers show a quiet market. Prices are still high, but not a lot of properties are selling.

I can tell you what that means on the ground.

It's been a slow summer, at least for my company. Slower than in several years. The phone seldom rings, the emails are mostly spam, and the clients who are hoping to sell their properties are wondering where everyone went. Despite lots of marketing, price adjustments, and pretty much everything but a circus act on the front lawns, there just aren't many showings.

It feels like an early winter market, not late summer.

And these are good properties. A move-in-ready home with land in Delhi. A Victorian in Oneonta. A do-able project in Bovina. All of them for less than $250K. Happily, the Victorian sold late in the summer. But what of the other two? As of this writing, both are still available.

What IS getting interest? Very high-priced properties with 50 acres or more. Some commercial buildings. But despite the interest, the offers coming in are low. These are investors who will only buy at a bargain price.

It feels like most people are holding their breath – no one wants to make a big decision, make a big investment, right now. I have plenty of theories about why that is, but they are my opinions, not necessarily fact.

The fact? It's a slow market.

What does this mean if you own a home and hope to sell? Either price aggressively, or hang on until spring and hope things are better.

If you want to buy? If you are willing to (and can) pay a fair price, you should be able to find some reasonable deals right now. But if you're looking for a steal, that lowball offer is going to be met with a raised eyebrow no matter how long the property has been on the market.

It's a bit reassuring that the annual phone calls from hunters who want to sell their land are coming in. That almost feels normal in abnormal times.

I feel we are lucky if we already have a place – many of us couldn't afford to buy here now. I'll just sit tight and see what the spring brings.

How to keep busy in the meantime? Well, I opened a used book business on Main Street.

That should keep me out of trouble for a while.

SCHOOL SHENANIGANS

By Brian Brock

In April of 2023, Jonah Shaw won the lottery. After an auction by the office of the Sheriff of Delaware County, he was certified as owner of the new Treadwell school building for the cost of only $380. That was 0.03% of the assessed full-market value of $1.18 million. Since then, he's been casting about for a profitable use of his prize, all the while paying the taxes and legal expenses.

A month afterwards, in his first discussion with the Franklin planning board, he proposed moving his business Catskill Food Company from behind Good Cheap Foods in the village of Delhi. Also, he suggested renting some of the space for catered events and possibly lodging, for which he had just organized 138 Church Street LLC. A year on, he added the processing of cannabis as well as relocating his fish and meat smoking business and offering recreational rentals.

Later in 2024, after an application in June for this dual processing and public hearings in July and September, at the September meeting of our planning board he was granted a special-use permit to process both in the kitchen and cafetorium. In August, NYS Office of Cannabis Management had granted him a permit for processing cannabis, which ran for two years. Briefly, Shaw posted a website for Catskill Cannabis Company; however the name proved too similar to an existing store Catskill Cannabis NY in village of Catskill, Greene County. But that license for processing expired on August 19th of this year.

In October of 2024, Shaw opened Catskill WeedWorks website to lease some or all of the building to other cannabis processors. He had not included this use in his application or even discussed the possibility with our planning board. Despite that, he claims that this use is "Fully Municipally Approved." Over the next few months, he and his business partner Donny Moskovic shopped-around this scheme at industry conventions and conferences.

Despite plans for WeedWorks, Shaw had also applied for another special-use permit in June to rent the building for recreational stays and events. Defining this use took some time and Shaw was sometimes travelling. Finally, our planning board granted him a permit for recreational rentals in February of 2025.

Apparently, Catskill WeedWorks was unsuccessful. In the spring of 2026, Shaw engaged a broker for general leasing of the whole space. Keller

See SCHOOL, con't on Page 19

FRANKLIN'S MANY MANSIONS

Staff Report

New York State has made it official: the Town of Franklin has mansions.

This fall, two residential properties west of Treadwell were sold for well over a million dollars. In New York, sales of such properties are taxed at an additional 1% to the standard 0.4% for a total of 1.4%. This mansion tax was passed in 1989. However, only recently has the inflation of property values lifted local properties above that minimum. In October, the sale of a rural residential property of 199 acres on Post Road was taxed at $21,000. In September, the sale of a residential properties of 275 acres on Carey Road was taxed at $18,200. Otherwise, sales of properties in Franklin are rarely taxed at more than a few thousand dollars. Nowadays, a substantial house on hundreds of acres might well sell for over a million dollars. There are several other such in our town.

Unfortunately, towns do not benefit from this transfer tax. Still, there is a local angle. Both of these properties were part of a lawsuit over their assessments, decided last year when the judge ordered reductions of the assessments and refunds. For the property on Post Rd, full market value was reduced from $0.65M to $0.51M. Nonetheless, it sold for much more, three times as much at $1.68M. Also, for the property on Carey Rd, full market value was reduced from $1.68 to $1.30M. This, too, sold for much more, twice as much at $2.62M. Apparently, the judge was wrong about them being over assessed. If anything, our assessor was too conservative.

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THE ABC'S OF VOTING
Part 3

By Carla Nordstrom

The 2026 election is finally here and your guess is as good as mine as to what the outcome will be. I'm writing this article in early October to make my copy deadline. Anything can happen between now and when the New Franklin Register is delivered to your mailbox.

There are three ways to vote in New York State:

Mail-in voting

Early voting

Same day voting on the first Tuesday of November

While there have been attempts to interfere with how New Yorkers cast their votes, so far, our practices have remained intact.

It has been a rough and tumble election year, unlike any other. The President who relies on voting by mail has issued executive orders that would give the U.S. Post Office the authority to determine who can vote. He has also ordered the Department of Homeland Security to come up with a list of eligible voters and threatened states that do not send in confidential voter information. The President has pushed for legislation, the SAVE Act, requiring voters to prove citizenship, but it has stalled in the U.S. Senate. There has also been mid-decade redistricting which is still causing confusion in states like Missouri, even though early voting has begun in other states.

While the executive branch has issued edicts, they have had little success with implementing their policies. Most states have not complied with submitting voter rolls and the Supreme Court has ruled against the mail-in voting decrees. States control elections and few are willing to give up that power. According to the U.S. Constitution, elected representatives could make election law changes, but they are in recess until after the election.



As Election Day approaches, there are concerns of shenanigans that may interfere with voting. Threats have been mentioned, such as ICE and FBI agents showing up at the polls to harass voters, federal agents impounding ballots as they are being counted, or refusal of Congressional leadership to seat newly elected representatives. There are laws to prevent these scenarios from happening, but the Department of Justice currently follows the dictates of the aministration, and courts are slow to react.

While there has been a lot of scary election doom-and-gloom talk, voters should not be intimidated. Every eligible voter should use their right to vote, and help everybody they know to vote. Large voter turnout is the best way to protect our vote.

By the time the New Franklin Register reaches you, most of the deadlines for mail-in and early voting will have passed, but you should still be able to vote either by delivering your mail-in ballot directly to the polls, by voting on the last days of early voting, or in person on Election Day, November 3rd, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Franklin Town Garage, 12480 Cty. Hwy. 21 or at a local polling place.

This year, organizations such as Indivisible, Hands Off Our Vote, and the ACLU, among others, are running election protection programs throughout the country. They are suggesting a few things that all voters can do.

Make sure you and five friends are registered to vote. Check your registration here: *https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov*

Vote early to lock in your vote as early as possible and avoid the rush.

If you vote by mail, request your ballot early and send it in early to avoid any delays by mail delivery.

Bring five people with you to vote. This can include making sure they know when and where to vote. Offer to provide transportation or accompany a friend to the polls.

Celebrate Election Day! Voting is a positive thing you can do for yourself, your community, and your country.

On a personal note, I'm finding this election to be different. I've always been involved on the partisan side of elections, but this year I'm focusing solely on voting. I've been trained by Common Cause to be a nonpartisan election observer. Instead of telling people who to vote for, I say just vote for whoever you are comfortable voting for. If nothing on the ballot appeals to you, vote anyway.

Vote by November 3rd. Celebrate your effort.

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

By Carol Ohmart-Behan

Given my political activism, which began with opposition to the Vietnam war, I am grateful to continue to be free to exercise my First Amendment rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of speech. The soul-trying increase in turbulence in our country over these past ten years leaves one disheartened and at times hopeless. Choosing to be a part of the many rallies last year and into 2026 lifted my spirits.

Some years ago, I began volunteering as a poll worker in my district, District 1 of the Town of Sidney, Delaware County, New York. Twice a year for primary and state/federal elections, I rise at 5 a.m., drive the mile and a half to the fire station in Sidney Center. There in the early morning light, I join my Democrat poll-partner and our two Republican colleagues to oversee the day's voting for candidates running for office and the occasional NYS propositions. Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. By the time we go through closing procedures and hand over the vote totals to the sheriff's deputy who arrives to receive them, I arrive back home around 9:45. Yes, a long day, but always a rewarding one. Helping my neighbors to exercise their right to vote is a privilege I'm grateful to do, more so all the time.

This year's primary was held on June 23rd. There were only a few races for state candidates - three for the Republicans and one for the Democrats. Still, the turnout kept us poll workers busy a good part of the day. District 3's voting is held at our fire station as well.



The eight of us serving as poll workers are a lively and companionable bunch, neighbors and friends. We bring food to share - our voting day potluck - and catch up on news with each other as the day goes along. It is an upbeat camaraderie of us four Dems and four Republicans during the long sixteen-hour day. We often receive thanks from people who come to vote, expressing their gratitude for our volunteering efforts. That day, we were all delighted when a young woman came with her mother to vote for the first time, a newly-registered Democrat.

There's something truly wonderful about witnessing such an occasion, especially right now. Once she'd cast her vote and attached her "I Voted!" sticker to her shirt, we congratulated her and said we looked forward to seeing her in November!

It's always been clear that the four of us, representing the two opposing parties, vote quite differently for candidates and issues. And a majority of the people arriving here are Republicans. However, there is nothing ever but civility amongst us on both sides of the tables, all day long, and what feels like mutual gratitude for our shared civic activity there at the fire station. It certainly offers me hope that the rancor and divisiveness loose elsewhere have no place here in our community. And if so, then a solution to bridging and healing this angry nationwide divide is beginning and taking root in places like my hometown, Sidney Center.

May all have a good and fine November Election Day, wherever it is you call home.

Happy 250th, dear, still-beautiful America.

Excerpted from a Substack posted before July 4th of this year. With the November mid-term election just a few weeks away, these thoughts still ring true.

Maybe more so.

Read the entire piece at: https://carolohmartbehan.substack.com/p/from-sea-to-shining-sea





CONSTITUTION CHRONICLES

Compiled by Brian Brock

May 27 Iroquois Gas Transmission Systems files supplemental/additional information with FERC.

May 27 Catskill Mountainkeeper et al. files in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit re FERC *Order on Remand* issued 01/23/2026 and the *Denial Notice* issued 03/26/2026.

June 24 Federal Energy Regulation Commission issues its *Notice of Schedule for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment,* starting with draft in August.

June 25 FERC requests additional information from Williams Companies and Iroquois Gas Transmission, deadline July 10.

June 26 Persistence Analytics Group comments on scope of EA. Review of project should not be limited to whether it can be procedurally revived. Instead, FERC should verify whether the case made for pipeline still holds.

July 2 Williams Companies comments on scoping of FERC›s environmental review and answers comments made by others. Also, it responds to protest by NYSDEC of Williams' petition to FERC of December 19, 2025, for the project.

July 17 NYSDEC objects to "egregiously" late filing by Williams. If FERC grants company's requests, then department reserves the right "to seek appropriate relief."

July 27 Stop The Pipeline requests that its petition not be dismissed and instead be held in abeyance until FERC issue an order so that rights of STP be preserved and that double briefing be avoided.

Aug 13 NYSDEC responds to FERC notice of preparation of EA. It urges commission to instead prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Aug 21 FERC releases its Environmental Assessment of the project and opens a 30-day period to receive public comments. *

Sept 9 Judge Lohier of US Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit grants motion to consolidate cases (Catskill Mountainkeeper et al., NYSDEC, and STP), and holds in abeyance a review of FERC orders pending further action by commission. Motions to intervene (plaintiffs) and dismiss (defendants) to be decided once proceedings resume.

Sept 19 Women›s Water Walk steps-off from Oquaga Creek State Park, Town of Bainbridge in Chenango County, beginning a hundred-mile two-week trek along route of pipeline to Lily Park, Village of Schoharie in Schoharie County in protest of the project.

Sept 22 WWW Day Four in Franklin stopped for lunch at Goddards' on Patent Line Rd, fall equinox celebration at Hartels' on Wally Rd, and potluck dinner at Open Doors Church on Main St.

Sept 24 WWW Day Six in Franklin starting at Sunshine Bees Apiary on Chamberlain Hill Rd, lunch at Osbourne's on State Hwy 28S, and then to Audubon Bird Sanctuary on Grange Hall Rd.

Sept 30 Senators announce a bipartisan compromise on deregulation of permitting projects for transport of energy, both electricity and methane. Voting is delayed until after elections in November.

Oct 19 President Trump pledges up to $42 million from defense funding allocated for energy projects deemed critical to national security to reimburse Williams for pre-construction expenses.

* By the deadline, hundreds of unaffiliated individuals commented on Environmental Assessment by FERC. In addition, a dozen institutions commented, and all but two criticized the EA. Objections included:

- Illegal for FERC to recertify project because its docket was vacated by U.S, Court of Appeals. Instead, permitting process must start from beginning.

- Existing EIS (2014) is over a decade out of date. EA is legally insufficient. Instead, FERC must prepare at least a Supplemental EIS as required by NEPA.

- Williams has improperly deferred submission of much of required information until after certification.

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ANNALS OF SUSTAINABILITY

STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Profiles in Conservation: EILEEN KLINE

By Stewart Hardison



Eileen Kline

In my prior posts for this series, I have tried to convey how the beautiful landscapes we enjoy in the northern Catskills are the legacy of generations of active stewardship, which started in the New Deal era of the 1930s, gained momentum with the first Earth Day in 1970, and evolved into what we know today as the modern environmental movement – nearly a century of incremental progress towards cleaner air and water and the regrowth of forest.

Today, the fact that many of our young people care deeply about the environment and are informed on the issues – climate change, food security, water pollution, microplastics -- and are committed to be a part of the solution to overcome these perils, confirms that stewardship continues to move forward.

This new generation brings energy and fervor that are desperately needed, especially since we are on the cusp of a record El Nino event that is virtually guaranteed to bring a new level of climate chaos to our region and the world.

Were it not for dedicated teachers who instruct area students in environmental science and practice, the new wave of stewardship might not be happening. Fortunately, it is happening, as this profile of one of those teachers will show.

Eileen Kline, of Delhi, NY., taught middle and high school biology, environmental and general science in South Kortright, NY, retiring in 2018. During her 29 years of teaching, she concentrated on teaching sound environmental principles to students within the biology, life, physical and environmental science curricula. With her help, the school obtained a grant for the purchase of equipment for a field study program, complete with scientific monitoring equipment and chest waders.

Thus equipped, her classes spent outdoor lab time in the West Branch of the Delaware River, near its headwaters just off the campus of South Kortright Central School. The students collected macro invertebrates and counted numbers and species biodiversity to determine local river quality using a DEC biotic index scoring system. Sensitive macros such as stoneflies and mayflies received a higher water quality score than crayfish, crane flies or blackflies. The consistent absence of pollution-intolerant species, with a large number of pollution tolerant ones could indicate a water quality or habitat problem. Further, a lack of species biodiversity over time could also indicate a problem.

The students also assessed the stream's physical characteristics, such as water clarity, dissolved oxygen levels, sedimentation, and tree cover along the banks – vital indicators of stream health for supporting a robust food chain, from the macro invertebrates up to the brook and brown trout which feed on them.

"The kids really enjoyed the field work," Eileen told me. "They could collect for example, insects and crayfish and appreciate the web of life that makes a healthy river. And because they saw how it all depended on good water quality, they started to care about the river in a deeper way. They also understood and appreciated that the quality of the water is determined by the land around it. It was their river, their watershed, and they wanted it protected."

A major component of protecting the watershed involved planting trees. Over the course of her career, Eileen and her students planted many thousands of saplings, part of several years of stream bank restoration projects at the SUNY Delhi Outdoor Education Center in Delhi, on the Little Delaware River in Delaware County, on public lands in Green County and at Frost Valley YMCA in Ulster County, and Inwood Hill Park (the only old growth forest in Manhattan) in New York City. These collaborative projects were partially made possible by the grant writing and logistical support of her colleague, Mike Zamm, of the NY Council on the Environment.

Often, students from various districts in New York City participated alongside students from South Kortright. These upstate/downstate collaborative projects were partly funded by the Catskill Watershed Corporation and often focused on plantings for riparian buffer restoration.

"I can say," Eileen reported, "that my students enjoyed meeting their watershed counterparts and working with them on habitat restoration." A part of that enjoyment was seeing the joy of city kids when they netted their first crayfish or dug in the dirt and squeamishly held an earthworm, possibly for the first time.

The idea of sharing a watershed with others and knowing that the stewardship we expect from upstream neighbors is the same stewardship we should practice for our downstream neighbors, is important to Eileen. She also promoted this ethic by involving her students in "Green Connections," a collaborative project between South Kortright middle school students and middle schoolers from a New York City public school. This program allowed students to correspond with each other and participate together in watershed education projects. A field trip to New York City allowed her students to meet their Green Connections friends, and included a visit to the South Street Seaport, the Queens Museum of Science and Alley Pond Environmental Center.

By studying their home watershed at the granular level – think of a mayfly nymph collected from under a river stone: the nymph feeds a brook trout, which feeds a river otter or bald eagle – the students begin to understand the inter relatedness of all things. After several seasons of field work and science classes, with Eileen and other environmentally conscious science teachers, the students begin to better understand how the environment around them scales globally, how pollution from elsewhere is their pollution – for example, wildfire smoke, which at times during the past summers has been visibly and pungently obvious. Less obvious, but just as insidious, is the carbon pollution that wafts invisibly into the high atmosphere.

The global view that Eileen tries to convey to her students is not surprising considering her background story. She grew up in Bellmore, Long Island, with a large backyard that was once an oak forest. She loved to climb trees and visit the nearby shore, where she body surfed and combed the beaches and marshes, collecting shells and watching shorebirds and waterfowl.

She attended St. Bonaventure University in western New York, graduating with a BS in Physical Education and Biology. A member of the ROTC program, she also graduated as a Commissioned Officer, and served in the US Army Medical Service Corps, Active Duty and Reserves, from 1979 until 1984. She attained the rank of Captain, providing medical and administrative support to the 7th Infantry Division during peacetime training. Her military career landed her in Monterey Bay on California's beautiful central coast, where she eventually taught biology, physical science and health in grades 7-10 in the Salinas Valley, from 1984 until 1989. Involvement in a comprehensive marine biology class at UC Santa Cruz, as well as Environmental Science classes at San Jose State University, helped deepen her appreciation for the local environment. She and colleagues involved students in local stewardship projects and educational experiences from Big Sur to the Monterey Bay tide pools to Yosemite National Park, and the San Francisco Academy of Sciences. She met her former husband there and started a family. They relocated to Delhi in '89, raised two children who each at-

See KLINE, continued on Page 19



Kline's South Kortright students learn stream biology and environmental practice in the Delaware River's West Branch which runs behind the school. Photo by Eileen Kline



The group gathered for lunch, rest, prayers and song in our front yard.

LUNCH WITH THE WATER WALKERS

By Amy Goddard
Photos by the author

In the early evening of September 14th, while preparing dinner, I noticed a figure walking up our driveway toward the backyard. I initially assumed the person was a neighbor, since I had texted a few of them that afternoon to come by to help themselves to ripe veggies from our garden. Upon looking more closely, I saw that the individual was a woman I did not recognize. Because I was occupied with meal prep, I asked my husband, Bruce, to go outside and ask her if she needed help.

Bethany Yarrow entered our lives that evening. And she did indeed need some "help." Bethany explained to us that she was organizing the Women's Water Walk along the Constitution Pipeline's proposed route, to spread awareness of the potential project. On September 19th, the 113-mile walk would begin, and continue for two weeks. She was looking for a spot to break for lunch on the Tuesday, September 22nd walk from Unadilla to Franklin. We immediately agreed to be that spot!

Tuesday morning, September 22nd, a white van appeared in our driveway carrying two friendly women who were transporting lunch fare for the walkers. Around 1:30pm, a spirited group of about thirty walkers and supporters arrived in our yard. In addition to the WWW lunch team's provisions, Bruce and I provided zucchini soup, coffee, tea, and cookies – and of course our own wonderful well water!

Chairs were formed in a circle in the yard, and several folks offered lovely blessings, prayers, and songs. Many expressed thanks to us for providing a respite on their trek. After almost two hours, the walkers regrouped and continued their walk of 3.5 additional miles to a gathering at Jim Hartel's property on Walley Road.

Bruce and I were honored to provide a place for people to rest while participating in such an important mission.

Our local communities need to understand what a fracked gas mega-pipeline would do to our forests and farmland: significant environmental, health, and climate implications, disruption to local waterways, wetlands, and water tables, deafening compressor stations – and providing a corridor of power for AI data centers.



The walkers climbing a hill on Patent Line Road toward Gibson Hill Road.

ABOUT THE WALK:

From the Women's Water Walk website (womenswaterwalk.org):

"The Women's Water Walk is a 113-mile prayer walk that starts on September 19th, 2026, at Oquaga Creek State Park near Bainbridge, NY. It continues until October 4th, when we reach the Lily Park in the town of Schoharie.

"The walk is being led by Indigenous grandmothers and has its own protocols and code of conduct.

"WHO WE ARE:

"We are the womb carriers, sisters, mothers, and grandmothers who have been given a sacred responsibility to protect the water, land, and all life for the generations to come. We are leading this water walk to uphold the Laws of Nature and call people into awareness regarding this grave threat to our communities.

"Our symbol is the blue heron, a sacred water bird of these lands that reminds us of our right to self-determination and how to live in balance – guided by thoughtful, deliberate action. People of all faiths and traditions are invited to walk and join our collective prayer for the water and for all life."

STOP THE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE!

WOMEN'S WATER WALK IN FRANKLIN

By Jan Mulroy

You might have seen yard signs for the Women's Water Walk around town and wondered what that was about.

The Women's Water Walk was created and led by women, including Indigenous Elders and Grandmothers. They would spend two weeks walking a 108-mile route through towns along the proposed Constitution Pipeline. The Walk is not a protest, said Bethany Yarrow, Waterfall Unity Alliance Director and Women's Water Walk Leadership. "It is a prayer for our water and a call for us to come together to protect our water, our communities, and future generations".

The people of the Women's Water Walk would spend three days walking nearly the length of the Ouleout Creek Watershed. Either alongside or crossing the path of the proposed Constitution Pipeline, each day's walk would be about seven miles. Each day the walkers would encounter water, and prayers would be said.

Compressor Free Franklin hosted the Women's Water Walk in Franklin on September 22nd. With help from North Star Farm, we served refreshments and offered seating around a fire at Jim Hartel's property on Walley Road.

Indigenous Grandmothers took turns speaking about where they were from and how caring for the water and all nature is central to their lives.

In agreement with the Elders, Grandmother Nancy Andry of Algonquin and French heritage, taught us The Water Song, explaining that it is a sacred prayer and expression of gratitude honoring water as the lifeblood of Mother Earth and our own bodies. Grandmother Nancy taught us this song to widen the circle of women singing it because of the increasingly grave dangers our waters are facing. You can learn more about this prayer song at https://www.singthewatersong.com/

Reverend Betsy Ott of Open Doors United Methodist Church also spoke, of growing up in Franklin and visiting the Ouleout Creek, where she would find "worked stones" and think about the individuals who had worked them. On the Women's Water Walk website, Reverend Ott wrote: "As a faith leader, I celebrate the Women's Water Walk as I focus on the beginning of the scriptures where God's Spirit hovers over the waters as the creation story unfolds. What a wonderful image of the creative power of the divine being, working with the essential element for life, which is water! "

As the daylight faded on the Fall Equinox, we all headed to the Open Doors Church for a potluck supper, conversation, and song. It was a wonderful evening. We were all visibly moved by our very special guests.

In the following days, the walkers would end up at Sunshine Bees Apiary on Chamberlain Hill Rd in Franklin and next at the Delaware Otsego Audubon Bird Sanctuary on Grange Hall Rd. Perfect weather prevailed and the Ouleout Creek Watershed showed them its best.

For more information about the Women's Water Walk, visit womenswaterwalk.org

For more information about Compressor Free Franklin, visit compressorfreefranklin.org.

COMPRESSOR FREE FRANKLIN



Listening to the Grandmothers Speak *Photo by Jim Hartel*

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BOOK THOUGHTS

FALL READING

By Susan Barnett

I am a nerd. If you are, too – if you laugh at insider jokes about the Gom Jabbar and can name episodes of Star Trek, if you know that the ultimate answer to the question of life, the universe and everything is 42, if you know Captain Sam Vimes' "Boots" theory of Socio-Economic Unfairness, this one's for you. If you aren't, you have no idea what you're missing. I'll have a paragraph at the end for you.

But for the rest of you: greetings, family! I want to discuss a writer who was once my favorite, who I then found problematic, but who I must admit I just can't quit.

It's Roger Zelazny. If you know him, you know. He's no longer with us but he's almost contemporary, and he wrote some of the most gorgeous prose in the science fiction and fantasy genre. I put him right up there with Ray Bradbury for gorgeous writing.

I don't think he ever achieved the wild fame of the Asimov, Bradbury, Bradley, or LeGuin caliber. But good god, the man could write. And writers love him.

I grew up with a sci-fi loving dad, and we bonded over Star Trek (the original one) and his John Carter of Mars books. Then I found NINE PRINCES IN AMBER. And suddenly this was mine.

THE AMBER CHRONICLES take place in a gorgeous, lushly painted world where a dysfunctional family with a bit of an inbreeding problem can travel throughout the multiverse, adventuring and trying to escape from their murderous siblings. There's a medieval steampunk feel to it, but that was long before the genre had a name. The characters are flawed, infuriating, and totally engrossing. Likeable, even. And some are on a path to redemption. Others, not so much.

Here's the rub. There's more than a little old-fashioned misogyny going on. The women are all beautiful, powerful, yet not the primary movers. Some of the bad ones are a little better, but it can grate a little if you notice such things. In fact, it can grate a lot. It grated so much I put them down for a long time.

My younger daughter introduced me to romantasy (fairy smut as the kids call it), and I saw the lineage immediately. So I went back to check.

Good god, the man can write.

So I've picked up another of his books, one that has nothing to do with Amber. LORD OF LIGHT is an adventure in another world where humans have set themselves up as Hindu and Buddhist deities, and get their powers from technology. I'm smitten all over again. Then there are the short stories, like the one I recall where a psychotherapist makes a fatal mistake with a patient in a self-driving car. Those cars weren't a thing when that book was written. But Zelazny envisioned people blacking out the windows, letting the car drive them anywhere random, and it doesn't sound far fetched at all anymore. In this case, the therapist shouldn't have let the patient set the destination. There are so many. So many.

I had a full collection, and I was about to take them off the shelf and bring them to the store to sell. I can't do it. You'll have to get them from the library.

Now – if you aren't a science fiction fan but you've read this far and are intrigued, this is my suggestion for where to begin. These aren't hard core scientific reads. They're wonderful stories, beautifully written.

Ray Bradbury: A MEDICINE FOR MELANCHOLY – short stories – specifically, "Dark They Were, And Golden Eyed." You'll get hooked.

Roger Zelazny: THE LAST DEFENDER OF CAMELOT. More short stories.

Douglas Adams: THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY. Must not be missed.

Terry Pratchett: GOING POSTAL. This is the one that hooked me. More fantasy than sci-fi and hilarious, so read him anyway. He makes you believe there is hope for humanity.

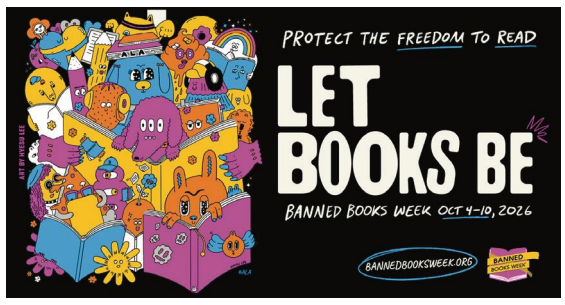
Are you hooked now? Then it's time for:

Frank Herbert: DUNE. The first three books, particularly. A dear friend was one of the publishers who passed on this classic. He still laughs at his own folly.

Mary Doria Russell: THE SPARROW. A signal from an alien culture is discovered. While politicians fight to decide which country gets to answer it, the Jesuits launch a mission. Brilliant, harrowing in parts, and very, very human.

Then you're ready for Asimov and Bradley and LeGuin and Ellison, Arthur C. Clarke, and Ian Banks, and maybe even James S.A. Corey's THE EXPANSE. And then you're off to the races. For a local connection, look for Marjorie Bradley Kellogg's GLIMMER. I envy you the discoveries.

Susan Barnett is a nerd. She's okay with that. She is also a Pushcart-nominated writer, a reader, real estate broker, and the owner of Shelter Books in Franklin.



October 10th: LET FREEDOM READ DAY

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WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?

By Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you.
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.
Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I.
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.

Christina Rossetti was born in 1830 in London and died in 1894. She was a major Victorian poet, author of "Goblin Market" and many other poems. "Who Has Seen the Wind" is a frequent favorite among children.

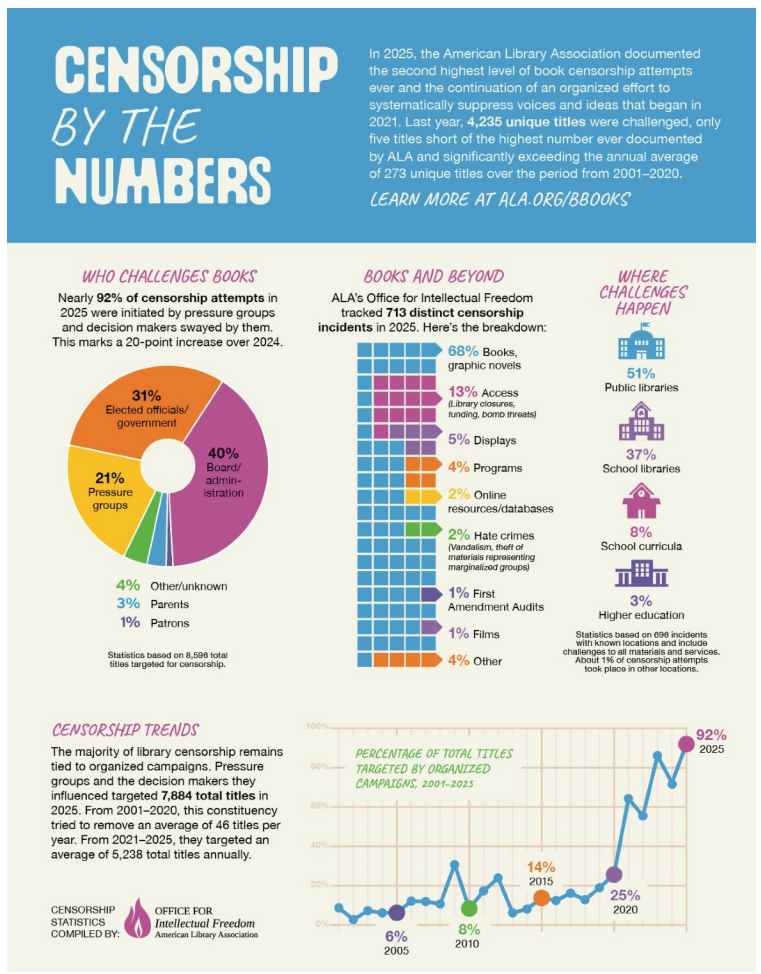
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Christina Rossetti
Image courtesy of Wikipedia

Curated by Bertha Rogers

SHELTER BOOKS
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CATSKILL CATS

MUSIC NOTES BY JOHN O'CONNOR



A GUITARIST'S STORY

I love New York City stories, especially from an era before my time there, which began in 1984 when I first went on tour there. Greenwich Village had long since ceased being the scene it was. The only folk club left was The Speakeasy, where I did my first folk club concert in New York. Being firmly focused on music from the great folk scare of the sixties and traditional American songs, I wasn't introduced to the jazz world until the nineties when I went to work for the NYC musicians' union. That's when I really started learning about the music profession and the history of jazz. I took in the stories of the New York jazz world from the fifties and sixties, the world that Dennis Turechek entered in 1960 when his employer, National Carloading, transferred him to the Big Apple. There began a trajectory that led to the Dennis Turechek many of us admire today, the guitarist who lives in West Oneonta with his piano playing spouse, Kristina.

The guitar is one of the easiest instruments to learn, which is why there are so many of us two-cylinder guitar pickers (Woody Guthrie's term) around. But to master the instrument is a different story. Turechek really knows how to play the thing, and has taught and been admired by countless other guitarists, including Harry Pellegrin, who composed and published a couple pieces dedicated to his mentor.

Turechek's story is unusual. He was self-taught, for the most part, with the help of a few lessons back in his home state of Nebraska. He was the youngest of ten children, his father a violinist and his mother, a pianist. His first instrument was the baritone ukulele picked up at age 4. When he moved to New York, he worked his day job and played a lot of jazz and popular music, skillfully enough to be able to work regularly in a self-contained trio that did club date gigs in a scene that no longer exists. He was drafted shortly after he moved to New York and was stationed in Germany, where his assignment was to entertain the troops (If you're gonna get drafted, I guess this is about as good a scenario as you can ask for). Off base, he played clubs in Germany and France, teamed up in a trio with Jim Yester, who later helped form The Association. You know, *Along Comes Mary* and *Never My Love*. That Association.

By the time Dennis returned to New York, he was smitten with classical guitar. Playing folk tunes with Yester compelled him to buy a guitar in Germany, which started a musical journey that changed his life. He became a classical guitarist and began a nine-year association with the beloved musician and teacher, Albert Blain, whose studio at the time was in Greenwich Village on 13th Street right next door to a musician hangout called the Spain Restaurant. Cuban by birth, Blain had studied under Segovia. One of the tribute compositions to Dennis that Pellegrin wrote is called *Once Upon a Time on W13th Street*, after the place where Pellegrin studied guitar several years after Dennis did.



Dennis Turechek

In 1979, Dennis and Kristina moved to Otsego County, where he began playing with the Catskill Stompers and teaching. Though lacking a degree in music, his experience and skills led to teaching jobs at Hartwick College and SUCO (now SUNY Oneonta). As Dennis' life was changed by Albert Blain, he in turn has changed others' lives, as well as the landscape of music in the region. Classical guitar can be an isolating instrument, not regularly part of a symphonic orchestra. During a conversation with his student, Gail Hamilton, he suggested offhandedly that perhaps they should start a non-profit for classical guitarists to get together. Hamilton ran with the idea and before long the Classical Guitar Society of Upstate New York was born. Dennis became its first president. The organization is alive and well today, providing lively discussion among its members and hosting recitals and concerts throughout the area. Their annual fall festival is held in October.

I met Dennis through my activism in the local musicians union. He volunteered to serve on the bylaws committee that I chaired. I liked him immediately. After talking to him for a few minutes, one could easily decide that the term "affable" was coined to describe Dennis Turechek. He's funny, intelligent, self-effacing and, by god, has good politics. He was at a party at my house this past summer singing the alphabet song backwards and spinning out new internal rhyme lyrics he made up to *I Get A Kick Out of You.* (A pastime Dennis calls the Kick Cole Porter's Ass Contest.) He seemed proud of the fact that, at age 88, he was the oldest at the gathering, until Gene Marner showed up and I said, "Well, Dennis, here comes your elder."

Dennis has long retired from teaching, but he still does the occasional gig (and is still a good union member). Kristina, a pianist, composes improvisational pieces that are addictive to listen to. They live in the house they bought in 1979 and are busy on a project building a Quonset hut to house the paintings of Kristina's father, the social realist painter and muralist.

But that's another story.



TENTATIVE TOWN TAXES '27

By Brian Brock

The tentative 2027 budget for the town of Franklin spends $2.18 million. To partially finance this, our town board raises $1.50 M in taxes from landowners, an increase of $0.042 M (2.4%) over the 2026 budget. As usual, the board increases the tax to almost the maximum dictated under the state-imposed soft cap. Additionally, the board expects to receive $0.37 M in revenue and to carryover $0.26 M from this year

All the increases are in expenses, and all the decreases are in revenues. Mostly, the increase of $76.2 thousand is for raised salaries (PS or P/S codes) and benefits. The lion's share goes to employees of the highway department, with salaries $36.0 K (8.6% increase) and benefits $12.0 K. Employees' salaries and benefits are set in a contract negotiated by the Teamsters Union, Local 294.

Most officials received a 2% increase. The five board members did not, nor did the registrar. The dog control officer received a 63% increase to $3,000. This year, Franklin has been without dog control until recently. Also, the highway supervisor received an increase of 2.7% to $67,275.

Almost all expense increases (CE, C/E, or cont.exp. codes) go to garage, machinery, road repair, and brush and weed clearing.

With these adjustments, the division of the 2027 budget is similar to that of 2026. More than three quarters of the budget, $1.69 M (77.4%), would be spent by the highway department. (Not included are the salary and benefits of the superintendent.) General expenses account for $0.45 M (21.4%) of spending, and the Treadwell light and water districts for $0.03 M (1.2%). In 2007, highway department spent 65% of the budget. During the intervening 20 years, its slice of the pie has gone from under two-thirds to over three quarters.

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

Projected expenses and revenues for the hamlet of Treadwell are unchanged from recent years. Expenditures of $23,000 for the water district are paid by user fees of $11,225 and a property tax levy of $11,775. However, the hamlet residents voted to increase user fees for the last two years, which is not accounted for. Unlike other

See TAXES, continued on Page 18



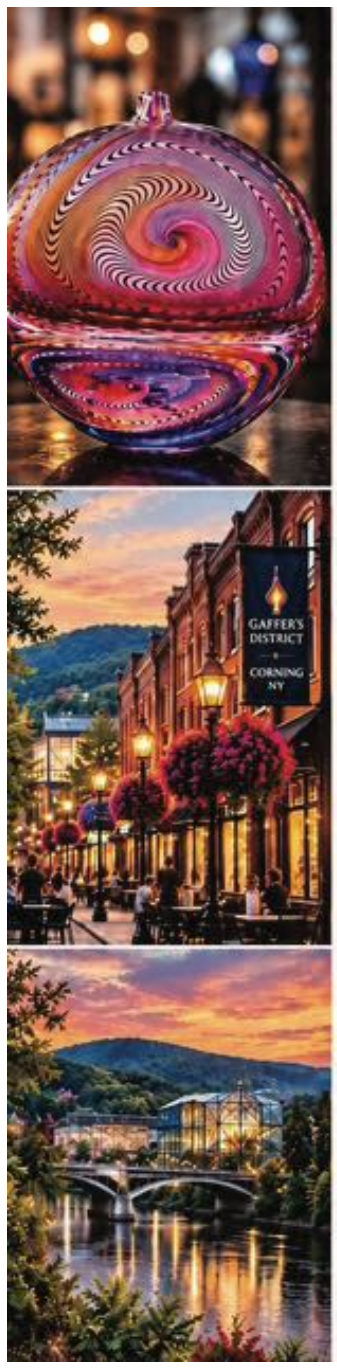
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FREELANCE WRITERS
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PHOTOGRAPHERS
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SAVE, continued from Page 1

cember 1st. When a center continuously fails to enroll enough children, it can imperil its federal funding and force its closure. In a worst-case scenario, the government might force DO to pay back for low enrollment. A change of scope, like lowering the age range, might avoid the payback.

The US Census Bureau estimates that Delaware County lost about 3,750 people, or 7.8% of its population, between 2000 and 2025, from 48,055 to 44,305. Total births stood at 336. Only about 3.8% of the population is under age five.



Rebecca Hotaling

"Twenty years ago," lamented Bryan Ayers, superintendent of Franklin Central School, "We had 400 kids. Today, only 200,"

A DO 2025-2028 Community Needs Assessment estimates the potential HS-eligible children in Franklin School District at 8-12. The assessment specifically identifies Franklin as continuously under-enrolled, and explicitly points out that DO is "looking into the possible elimination of the Franklin Center." Also suggested in its report is that Franklin may need to enlarge its enrollment area into the Sidney district, which now has the highest enrollment in the county. Several calls to Shelly Bartow, Executive Director of DO, were not returned.

The need to increase enrollment is critical for the future of Franklin Head Start. "We are thinking of converting preschool slots to early toddlers slots," said Teresa Hauptfleisch, Director of the Head Start program at DO. "If we wanted to do toddlers, we would have to switch the whole program to 2 to 3-year-olds," she said. "It might be easier to find toddlers because there is no other program for them around here, but it's not a given." She added, "It didn't help that since COVID, HS lost its bussing and parents have to bring their kids themselves. Some can't afford it."

In addition, Franklin Central School's free Universal Pre-K program has bussing. Even parents who like the HS program find it convenient to send their little ones along with their siblings.

What about children who can't physically come to the center?

"We don't have the home-based program anymore," Teresa explained. "That program folded years ago and we lost the bussing. We need to get permission to run it again. It would allow us to count the children that we see at home."

"Head Start is a beautiful program," Rebecca commented. "It would be a sad thing to lose it."



Teresa Hauptfleisch

THE CHRISTMAS STROLL AND HOLIDAY MARKET

By Connie Martin

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12th!

The Village of Franklin invites you, your family and friends to celebrate the holidays with us!

Christmas Stroll House Tour

The traditional Christmas Stroll House Tour is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors, see homes beautifully decorated for the holidays, learn about the history of the homes, and get ideas for renovations and décor!

The Stroll will take place on Saturday, December 12th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are $10 per person or $15 per couple, and will be sold at the Holiday Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the Stroll. Proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Franklin Improvement Society, a 501(c)3 organization that supports a number of other Franklin community organizations.

Thanks to Franklin's traditional holiday spirit, we have five wonderful houses lined up for the Stroll, and hope to have one or two more. If you would like to be on the Stroll or have questions about hosting, contact Connie Martin at candjmartin@fastmail.com. Stroll host houses only need to decorate for Christmas and open their doors for main floor tours during the 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. timeframe. Tour hosts may wish to offer light refreshments such as cookies and a beverage.

Don't Miss the Franklin Railroad and Community Museum

The popular *Trees and Trains for Christmas* exhibit at the museum is a must-see! Take a step back in time as you enjoy the beautifully decorated trees and The Warwick dining car. Learn about the history of Franklin, the surrounding towns, and much more! The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See STROLL, continued on Page 16

Editor's Note: This fall will see the retirement of the Franklin Farmers' 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.

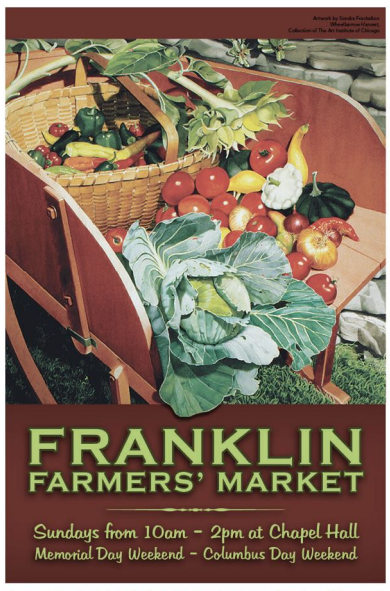
I can remember first finding out about the market and being so excited that such a thing existed in my hometown. After being a customer for a while, I began to help out. After consistently helping out for a while, I made a five-year commitment to be market manager in the wake of Ellen's retirement. Nine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

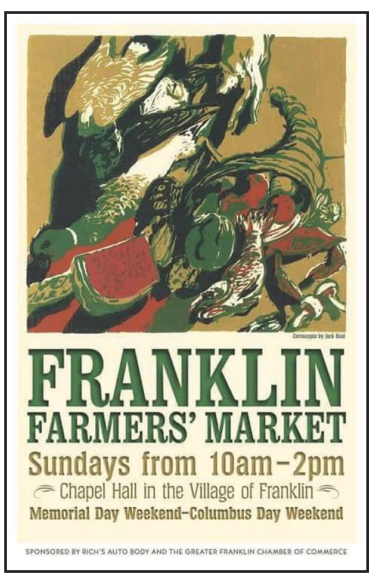
The next manager of the Franklin Farmers' Market (FFM) will inherit an extensive support system. Throughout the past 20 years, dozens of volunteers have dedicated hours and years to the various functions crucial to the market's maintenance and longevity. An entire team is available to assist with marketing,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

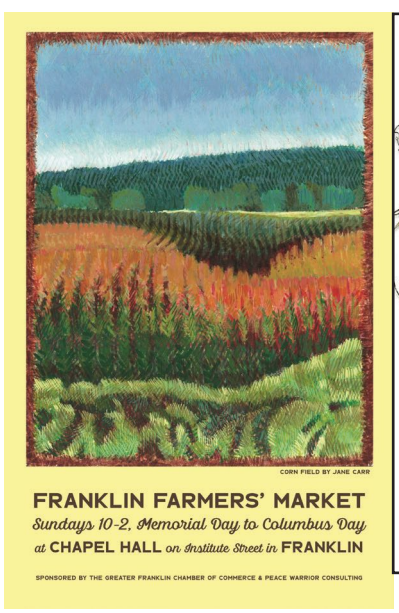
Like all jobs within Franklin Local, managing the Market is unpaid, a labor of love. But it yields many benefits, both for the manager and the community at large. For the manager, there is the reward of service to our community by way of food availability and support of the local economy. For the community 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.





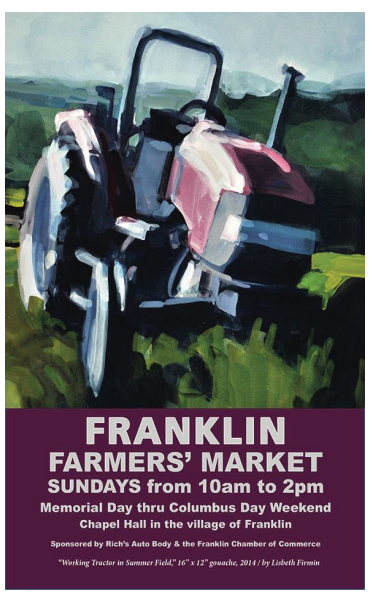
"Cornucopia' by Jack Beal



'Cornfield' by Jane Carr



'Fall Basket' by Judith Lamb



'Working Tractor in Summer Field' by Lisbeth Firmin

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

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

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

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

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

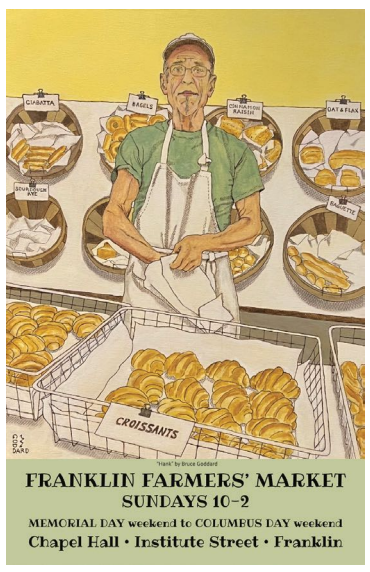
If interested, please email Marjorie Kellogg, Editor: nfr@franklinlocal.org

This year, the Franklin Farmers' Market celebrates its 20th year of service to our community. The following is a list of market vendors for those many years.

Ash Creek Herbs
Best Dog Cookies
Big Hopper Rabbit Farm
Bittersweet Farm Brewery
Breastone Farm Alpaca
Breezie Maple Farms
Buko Baked Goods
Cabbage Cove
Cabral's Caribbean
Candles by Laura
Catskill Lily's Handmade Gifts
Catskill Pasta
Chipmunk Hollow Farm
Chubby Bunny Confections
Coloured Jewels
Cordwood Acres
Crystal Wonders Jewelry
Crystal's Custom Art
East Brook Community Farm
Edmar Farm
Elk Meadow
Empire Angus
Enough and a Little Bit More
Enviro Energy
Field of Flowers
Fish Hollow Farm
Flying Rabbit Farm
Fokish
FCEF -- Burgers & Buns
Franklin Garden Club
FIS -- Plants & garden things
Franklin Rotary
Friends of Franklin Library
G.G. Willow Soap
Great Brook Solar NRG
Grandpa's Garlic
Greatful Market
Gretna Garden
Handsome Brook Farms
Hare and Feather Farm
Harpursville Garden Center
Health on Wheels
Heart to Home Decore
Holiday Farm Biscuit Co.
Izzabon Jewelry
John the Baker
Kneadin' Dough
Le Marais Chocolat
Lilac Hill Farm
Linder's Cider
Longacre Farm
Lou Lou's Farm Stand
Maria's Upstate Kitchen
Market Café
McQueens' Cuisine
Molto Molto
Naturally Speaking
Nectar Hill Farm
New York Power Authority

Vendors, continued:

North Star Farm
Oak Hill Farm
Off Road Maple
Olive Tree Herbs
Opal's Flowers
Ostrander Wood Working
Pine Swamp Shades
Pomeroy Jones Farm
Radiant Windhorse
Recreation Committee
Red Frog Bakery
Retail Photography
Roxbury Arts Group
SaJoBe Farm
SaucyDan
Scotty's Alpaca Poop
Shared Bounty
Sherman Hill Farmstead
Skytop Springs Fish Farm
Soap by Nature
Squire's Tankard
Stoney Creek Farm
Stupid Bunny Acres
Sue Mullen Plants
Sunny Hill
Thistlemint Farm
Thorn Cottage Farm
357 Greenhouse
Trollbok Bakery
Tundra Brewery
Turrell Farm
Two Ton Farm
Ty's Taco-ria
Uncle Nathan's WildingCat
Vesucre Vegan Ice Cream
Villager's Shop
Vitality Homestead
Wally Woodshop
Wandering Wagon
Wheat Hill Farm
Wheat Hill Photography
Whimsical Kitty
Wild Horse Gardens
Wild Mountain Apiary
Wild View Farm
Willow & Birch Apothecary
Willow Creek Brewery
Woodlawn Farm
Wool Plaza
Zeep Natural Soap



'Hank' by Bruce Goddard

ASSESSMENT SCORECARD

By Brian Brock

This year, Franklin had its first town-wide reassessment in five years. Its purpose was to bring assessed values of properties uniformly up to their full-market value.

State law requires that all properties within a town be assessed at the same rate. However, the law of real property tax does not require that those assessments be at the full-market value. Most towns do not. Annually, NYS Department of Taxation and Finance estimates how close to these market values is the average assessment for each of the 933 towns and 532 villages. Besides measuring accuracy, these equalization rates (ERs) allow landowners to be fairly taxed for services that they receive from neighboring towns, such as from schools and fire departments, despite having different assessment rates.

Assessment vs. Market Value

Across towns and through the years, these ERs fluctuate widely -- see table for the last five years for Delaware County with rates expressed as percentages. If nothing is adjusted, then ERs slip downward. However, town-wide revaluations are time-consuming and expensive. The spike in property sales during the COVID pandemic caused many towns to let assessments drift downwards. Recently Franklin, Hamden, and Walton have brought assessments back to full-market value. Among the 19 towns in Delaware County, only Franklin has kept the rates above 66% for the last quarter century.

Generally, villages adopt the same assessment as their towns. For towns with low ERs, a few villages do their own. This year, the exceptions are the villages of Fleischmanns (74.4%), Hancock (71.9%), and Stanford (44.0%).

Uniformity of Assessments

A measure of the fairness of assessments is how uniformly values are estimated throughout the town. In other words, how often similar properties are similarly valued. For most towns, New York State estimated the Coefficient of Dispersion for all properties and for residential properties. The State does this periodically, having done it for most towns at least once in the last half dozen years, 2019 to 2024. For Delaware County, most estimates are from 2021 or 2022.

For clarity, we use the complement of dispersion - that is, Assessment Uniformity. AU = 100% - COD. Therefore, the higher the value, the more precise are the assessments -- see table for Delaware County. Our state's Office of Real Property Tax Services considers that if properties values are in agreement for more than 85%, then the assessment is sufficiently equitable in rural towns. For more developed towns, the cut-off level is higher, at 88% or 90%.

No town in the Catskills meets this standard. In Delaware County, those with the least uniformity for residential properties are Colchester, Deposit, and Hancock, with less than 60%. Bovina has the most uniformity, with more than 80%. Franklin is in the middle of the pack for residential properties, with 73%. However, our town is second from the top for uniformity of all properties, with 80%.

Franklin has 2,206 properties, among which 57% are residential and 31% vacant land. Apparently vacant land is assessed more uniformly than residences. Together, the other seven property classes make up 12%, of which the largest is agricultural, with 3%. Overall, the uniformity of assessment for non-residential properties is 87.9%. Therefore, Franklin does exceed the state's threshold for assessment uniformity for non-residential properties.

As you would expect, towns which have not revalued recently, as shown by their low ERs, also have inequitable assessments of properties within the town. For some towns, this may be a feature of the system rather than a flaw. Thereby, the tax burden is shifted from those families who have long owned their land to those who have purchased recently and therefore the market value of their property is known.

Both in accuracy (ERs) and in precision (AUs), assessments in Franklin compare favorably to those of surrounding towns.

ASSESSMENT UNIFORMITY
Delaware County
2020-2024

Assessment All	Uniformity Residential	Town	Roll Year
NA	NA	Andes	2022
74.6%	78.9%	Bovina	2021
54.8	55.9	Colchester	2021
79.2	80.3	Davenport	2021/23
68.4	71.2	Delhi	2021
54.5	59.9	Deposit	2021
80.0	*73.1*	*Franklin*	*2021*
NA	NA	Hamden	2022
63.3	53.4	Hancock	2021
74.5	73.4	Harpersfield	2021
74.6	69.3	Kortright	2020/21
82.4	78.7	Masonville	2021
74.6	69.3	Meredith	2020/21
74.6	70.9	Middletown	2021/23
NA	NA	Roxbury	2024
71.0	71.2	Sidney	2020/23
74.2	76.8	Stanford	2021
62.5	69.7	Tompkins	2021
72.9	75.2	Walton	2021/23

NA – Not Available

EQUALIZATION RATES
Delaware County

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Town
100.0%	82.8%	75.0%	70.0%	70.0%	Andes
19.5	14.4	14.0	13.2	13.0	Bovina
2.8	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	Colchester
60.6	54.3	51.2	47.5	46.1	Davenport
48.8	36.0	33.8	32.0	31.0	Delhi
3.8	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.4	Deposit
94.0	*76.0*	*71.5*	*67.0*	*100.0*	*Franklin*
100.0	93.5	83.5	100.0	100.0	Hamden
10.8	8.4	8.4	8.0	7.8	Hancock
24.4	17.8	16.8	16.0	15.4	Harpersville
64.6	60.4	60.4	57.8	55.8	Kortright
84.8	71.0	66.6	63.0	61.0	Masonville
81.0	64.6	60.4	35.0	57.6	Meredith
84.5	69.4	62.8	59.0	58.0	Middletown
81.0	68.0	100.0	99.0	93.0	Roxbury
64.3	58.6	54.8	50.0	49.0	Sidney
22.8	16.9	15.8	15.2	14.5	Stanford
3.5	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	Tompkins
85.8	77.7	71.0	100.0	100.0	Walton

STROLL, continued from Page 14

Shop Local at the Holiday Market

Ruth Snow, Jeneane Howard, and Hanna VanDeusen are coordinating this year's Holiday Market, taking place on Stroll Day at the Franklin Firehouse at 351 Main Street, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local vendors will be on hand with holiday wares, home décor, handmade gifts, food, and much more!

Events at Open Doors Methodist Church

No time for cookie baking? The Open Doors Methodist Church will have trays of beautifully decorated Christmas cookies, artfully arranged and ready for you at their annual sale. They'll have steaming soup, hot coffee and snacks for sale too. And new this season: a Gift Sale and Wrap table for children to buy and wrap inexpensive gifts for family members. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



NEW this year! FREE Live Performance of *A CBC Christmas Carol*

The Community Bible Church will go all out this year with a free, live performance of *A CBC Christmas Carol* at 7 p.m., featuring local children and adults. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Franklin Eatery and Businesses Are Open

Full breakfast and lunch will be available at The Tulip and The Rose Restaurant on Main Street. They will also be open for dinner.

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

Shop for designer clothing and antiques at Gary Graham 422 and Kabinett & Kammer. Home décor, art and antique treasures are also featured at LAVA atelier. Head a couple of doors down Main Street for more great finds at Blue Farm Antiques.

Visits from Santa and Tree Lighting in the Park

Santa is everywhere this year! The kiddos can meet him at 11 a.m. while enjoying Story Time and home baked goodies at the Free Franklin Library. Later, Santa will be on the firetruck at Franklin's Tree Lighting and Caroling, 5:30 p.m. in the village park across from the Franklin Firehouse. Then after 6 p.m., bring the kids to the Firehouse for a chat with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The jolly old elf and his better half will have a small gift for each child, and hot chocolate and cookies will be served. A perfect photo-op for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to make great memories of their kids with Santa!



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

WATER, continud from Page 1

or $67,664. For the Treadwell census tract, its MIH is $63,250, well below the threshold. Projects are scored from five point to over 1,200.

The rating for Treadwell Water District improvement project is only 55 points, the same as in the last two years. As with previous years, DOH recommends that to qualify for at least a low-interest DWSRF loan, projects need at least 60 points. For this TWD project to qualify for a hardship grant requires doubling its score. A draft IUP may be amended in the month after its release. The final plan was released at the start of the federal fiscal year, October 1st. The Department of Health's score for the TWD Project remained at 55 points.

WIIA Grant

The NYS Environment Facilities Corporation (EFC) uses DOH evaluations of communities and scoring of projects in awarding several dozens Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grants and many DWSRF loans and a few hardship grants. For a project to be given the priority designation of hardship by DOH, it must be for a DAC and earn a minimum score of 105 points, up 10 points from last year.

At the end of October, EFC announced almost $500 million in awards for 106 projects. In this grant cycle, the application from Franklin was accepted as complete for the first time, after three tries. Surprisingly, EFC awarded Franklin $1.026 million for its Treadwell Water District improvement project. According to board member Dwight Bruno, the town was notified of a cash grant the day before the announcement on October 19th. This is the only grant awarded in the Catskills for 2027. In the last few years, only two other WIIA grants were awarded in our region: to the Village of Margaretville in 2023 and the Village of Delhi in 2025.

CPF Appropriation

Another source of funding could be federal Community Project Funding. Annually, each congressional representative may select projects to be funded as specific appropriations in the federal budget. For the federal fiscal year 2027, a maximum of 20 projects could be nominated by each member of the House. This spring, our congressman Josh Riley included a request for $1.4 million for the Treadwell water system. The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of US House Appropriations then added a line item to the budget of $747 thousand for the project, which could complete funding. However, this August, the Senate and House bypassed a budget for the new fiscal year by voting instead for a continuing resolution to fund the federal government until December 11th. President Trump signed the CR on September 2nd.



The Reservoir House (large) and the Well House #2 (small) on the property of Aaron Phillips

Perhaps the 119th Congress can manage to pass a budget after the November election, during the few weeks of a lame-duck session or perhaps the new congress will do it when it convenes in January. But if the entire fiscal year can be financed by continuing resolutions, it is likely that no CPF appropriations would be approved. This has happened before. For FY2025, our congressman at the time, Molinaro, managed to get an appropriation of $960 thousand into the budget for TWD. However, that fiscal year, no budget was passed, only CRs. Therefore, Treadwell missed out.

DWSRF Loan

The current estimate for the rebuild of the TWD water system is $1.75 million, although this cost could change once plans are drawn up and bid out. If close to that estimate, then without another grant, an additional $700 thousand would be needed, financed with a no-interest loan from DWSRF, which users will need to repay over time.

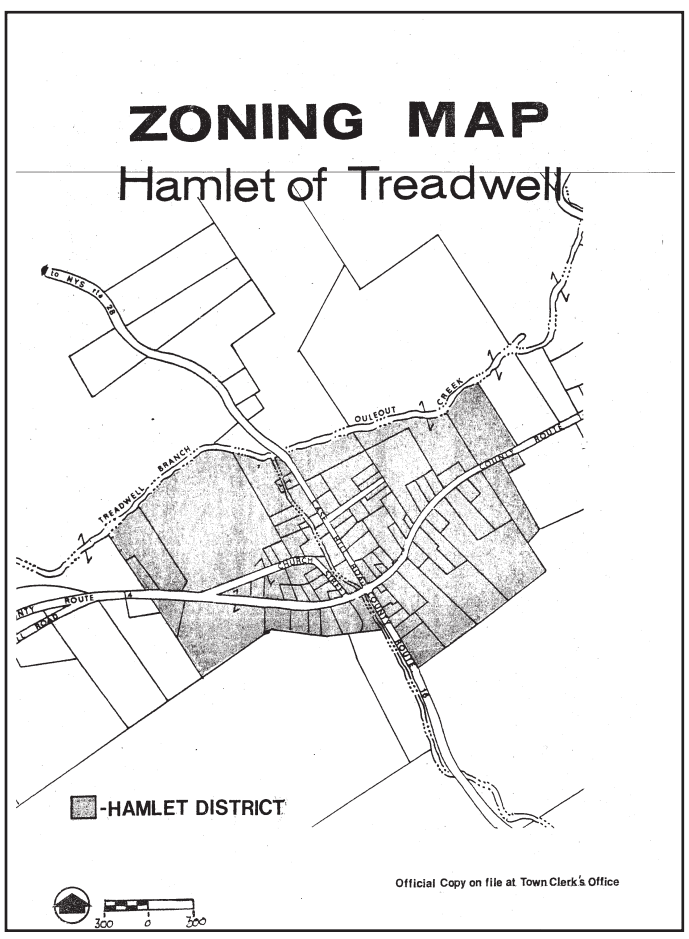
Currently, TWD residents pay for operations of their system, half with a user fee and half with a special levy on their property-tax bill. Next year presumably, a third payment of almost $325 per user will be added for the loan, thus doubling their average annual payment to a total of $650. This could be a tough nut for some users.

The Path Ahead

The start of the 2027 construction season is only six months away. Between the awarding of the WIIA grant and depositing the check, there will be a mountain of paperwork. A formal grant agreement with EFC will need be reviewed and signed. A test well should be drilled to confirm that the site in park is viable. Then plans must be drawn up and bid out.

Also, while the town owns the park in the valley where wells would be drilled, it must obtain land on the hill where a water tank would be built. Also, an easement will be needed for the right of way of the pipeline from the water treatment shack off Church Street to the water tank, along with an access road to the tank site.

News of this grant is very heartening, but there is still much to do.



THE TREADWELL WATER SYSTEM:
An Historical Timeline

1885 First part of Croton system built to supply water from spring to hamlet for fighting fires

1959/60 Residents petition town to buy water system

1960 Town holds two public meetings, discusses, and establishes Treadwell Water District

1961 Town buys Croton Water Works from Charles F. Kellogg for $7,000

1961 Town begins repairs and improvements to system for $4,000

1962/63 TWD begins installing meters and charging by usage

1967 1,000' of distribution lines replaced with plastic pipe

1984 Town buys 0.4 acres of land from Phillips and builds chlorinator for $8,000

1991 Town attempts to buy/trade for 2.4 acres of land around reservoir but fails

1998 "New well" drilled to 265' depth, pumping satisfactorily

2001 Becky Marshall becomes first licensed operator of system

2003 Thomas F. Leo LS P.C. maps waterlines for $3000 to $4,000

2004 Springs abandoned

2004 Elizabeth Phillips offers to deed reservoir property if town maintains access road

2006 Brandon Muller becomes licensed operator with B. Marshall as substitute

2006 Well chlorinated (shocked) because of algae

2006 Another well drilled to 424' depth, pumping 15 GPM for $9,782

2007 Drawing from springs reconsidered, through a $20K filter system. Idea rejected.

2007 Soda ash (Na_2CO_3) added to water to reduce acidity. Compressor installed.

2008 FEMA awards TWD $11,000 for well that collapsed during flood.

2013 LaFever Excavating, Inc. replaces 4" cast iron supply pipe in brook for $18,827

2022 Some State & Local Fiscal Relief Funds requested to be appropriated to TWD. Rebuffed.

2023 Town appropriates $80,000 of SLFRF from American Rescue Plan Act (2021) for:

- engineering study of water system and plans for replacement
- replacement of chlorinator treatment plant
- replacement of three lead service lines under County Highway 14

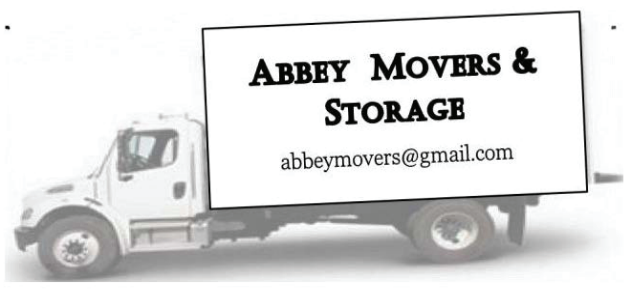
2024 Cedarwood Engineering Services PLLC report and planning for $57,555

2024 Eric Heneky surveys service lines for lead, NYS DoH requirement

2025/26 Five lead service lines replaced under County Highway 14

2026 Town is awarded $1.02 million from WIIA by NYS EFC

Note: due to fragmentary records, some events may have been omitted.



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PANTRY, continued from Page 6

funding, the school is also pursuing grants and donations to reach the $5,780 needed for the year. To qualify for the backpack program, teachers and staff identify students that could benefit from the extra help, and this year the goal is to assist a minimum of 20 students. If you would like to support the program directly, donations can be made online at https://give.regionalfoodbank.net/franklincs.

Holiday Boxes

The pantry provides holiday boxes of food for neighbors in November, December, and March or April during the holiday seasons. The boxes contain everything needed to create a quality, filling, and delicious meal for the holiday table. This program has grown over the years, providing up to 65 boxes per holiday to pantry neighbors and FCS and Head Start families. Please consider sponsoring a box for $50.

Outdoor Pantry

The pantry is partnering with Open Doors: A United Methodist Community, to create an outdoor pantry, which will be available 24/7 and stocked with appropriate foods and supplies provided by both the pantry and community members who wish to leave something for others.

Infrastructure

The pantry is grateful for the support of the Walter Rich Community Foundation which has provided the pantry with its home in the Community Farmhouse since our move to the village. The Foundation's, and John and Kathy Campbell's, support have ensured that every dollar donated to the pantry goes directly to supporting neighbors in need. We could not do what we do without their generosity.

As the pantry serves more neighbors, Kathy and John have also been leading the pantry's storage relocation and organization. Our backstock has been moved downstairs and is neatly arranged and rotated under Kathy's strict guidance, ensuring nothing goes to waste.

Volunteers

Dedicated, caring, and kind volunteers are the heart of the Greater Franklin Food Pantry. Volunteering requires a fair amount of medium lifting, walking, carrying, and standing for two or more hours at a time, as well as a non-judgemental and understanding attitude. We are grateful for our amazing volunteers.

Support

The pantry is supported by Delaware Opportunities, Inc. which provides us with guidance and no-cost food deliveries once per month. We are also supported by wonderfully generous monetary donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses, as well as food and personal care item donations from individuals in the community. FCS, Beta Sigma Phi, Xi Delta Iota sorority, and Open Doors also host food drives for the pantry at various times throughout the year which helps stock the shelves with much-needed variety.

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

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



A peaceful paddle on Cannonsville *Photo by Gib Jenkins*

TAXES, con't from Page 13

towns, Franklin accounts for the light and water districts within the town budget even though funding comes only from residents of the hamlet.

Cash reserves are good budgeting, but the right size is important because the larger the reserve, then the higher will be property taxes – there is no free lunch. With a budget of two million dollars, cash-on-hand in Franklin's bank accounts was almost a million dollars for a few years but was cut by half in 2019. Since then, this cash cushion is being rebuilt and was $891K at the start of 2026. The appropriated fund balance for that year was $224K, leaving $667K as a reserve as of January 1st. Current reserves are never discussed during the budget workshop.

At the annual budget workshop in October, the tentative budget was briefly presented to our town board, mentioning only the several amounts being revised. Without copies of the budget, those in the audience were at a loss. Board members present were willing to pass it without amendments or even discussion.

However, the highway superintendent objected that the budgeted 2% increase to his salary would leave it below that of highway workers. (The position does come with the use of the town pick-up truck.) To a question of where he could cut the $1.62 million highway budget to free-up money, Archibold had no reply. As a compromise, council members gave up their own salary increase of $30 each and added $340 of the $365 that remained below the tax cap. Archibold's benefits also rise to $4,595.

With the increase in the superintendent's salary, now $1,775 (2.7%), Sitts, Smith, and Story approved the tentative budget, which thereby became the preliminary budget. Two of the five board members were absent from possibly the most consequential meetings of the year. (In Franklin, budget is rarely amended after the public hearing.) This left our board with the minimum of votes needed to approve the budget plan.

A public hearing on the preliminary *Town of Franklin Budget 2027* is to be held Wednesday the 4th of November at 6 p.m. in the town meeting room, after the publication of this issue of the newspaper. As is tradition, the Franklin budget hearing is held immediately after election day although this is not required by law. If past is prologue, then few if any residents will comment.

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

For full details, the budget document should be available from the town clerk or the town website: https://franklindelco-ny.gov/government/town-board

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
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All-Purpose Cleaners

REMINDER:
Only Non-Expired Items

Don't Leave Donations Outside

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

BEAT, continued from Page 5

stitute Street near Franklin Central School from 4:30 p.m. through 6:30 p.m.. Part of Institute Street will be closed to traffic beginning at 4:00 p.m. Watch for more information from FCS.

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

Copies are also available upon request by contacting the village clerk**.**

Christmas Stroll House Tour, Holiday Market and more, Saturday, December 12th. Please see related article on Page 14 in this issue.

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

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

villageoffranklinny.gov.

Contact Us:
Mayor:
Johanna (Hanna) VanDeusen
607-287-4986
mayor@villageoffranklinny.us
Clerk:
Paula Niebanck
607-829-6776
clerk@villageoffranklinny.us
Trustees:
Morgan McLean
trusteeA@villageoffranklinny.us
Constance Martin
trusteeB@villageoffranklinny.us

KLINE, con't from Page 10

tended Delaware Academy and found professional careers after college (daughter an environmental lawyer, son a landscape architect).

Now retired, Eileen is busy with a mind-bending roster of activities. An active hiker, she's been a member of the Catskill 3500 Club; as a Trailhead Steward for the Catskill Mountain Club Fire Tower at Bramley Mountain, she has done trail maintenance on Bramley Mountain as well as other locations in the Catskills; with the Delaware Otsego Audubon Society, she has volunteered at Pine Lake and Charlotte Creek for outdoor labs with children and young adults and helped Pam Peters lead bird walks and has participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count; a Master Gardener for Cornell Cooperative Extension, she spreads her knowledge on trees, shrubs, and gardens to schools and civic groups; a board member of the West Kortright Center, she organizes garden tours and participates in the full range of the Center's cultural and environmental activities. And this is a partial list! She also offers tennis lessons to village kids during the summer and plays tennis as well. When able, Eileen also enjoys cycling, skiing and snowshoeing.

Like other stewards of the land profiled in this series, Eileen seems to have that special quality that drives a person to give back to the land, and their community. Without question, Delaware County is fortunate to have her as a local citizen.



The Treadwell School Complex

SCHOOL, con't from Page 7

Williams of Upstate New York Properties took a fresh set of pictures. (The ones that WeedWorks uses are from 20 years ago after Delhi Central School had prepared the building for sale.) Also, the broker is clear in her property listing that any use would be "subject to municipal approval." By mid-October of this year, the building has been on the rental market for over two hundred days.

Shaw has proposed many uses for his building. WeedWorks advertises it for one or more cannabis processors. Keller Williams advertises the building for "education or training, healthcare and behavioral health, events and retreats, commercial food production, light manufacturing, professional offices/co-working, and nonprofit or government uses." However, plans for rebuilding the Treadwell water system could limit uses. Two wells would be drilled in the adjacent park property. For 500' around those wells, there would be a Public Water Supply district from which commercial activities would be excluded. Depending on the location of wells, a PWS district could include most of the building.

Special-use permits expire if "substantial progress" is not made within one year. Shaw was slow off the mark with renovating his building. Therefore, he needed to apply for year-long extensions. Shaw applied and obtained one for processing in September 2025. A year later, he finally obtained a Certificate of Occupancy for the kitchen and cafetorium by the deadline of September 2026. Therefore, the planning board ruled that Catskill Food Company was in compliance with conditions of his permit even though processing had yet to take place.

Likewise, Shaw applied for a special-use permit for recreational rentals at 138 Church Street. This process was more contentious, requiring multiple meetings. Once again, Shaw was unavailable in August and December. Finally in February 2025, the planning board voted to approve a permit for rentals. Despite a lack of progress after a year, the board extended his permit contingent on him presenting a plan with a timeline.

Shaw's compliance with this permit is still in question. The building is over 30 years old and does not meet building codes for that use. Major renovations are required. In addition, his special-use permit requires Shaw erect a fence to separate his property from the public park. Work had yet to start as of mid-October. Meeting these obligations will be quite expensive. Zoning Law in Franklin allows for only one extension. Failure to make substantial progress by February of 2027 would require Shaw to start the permitting process again.

These past few years, those 36,000 sq ft have been siting mostly idle. There were other bidders at that sheriff's auction who dropped out when they thought that the winning bid was $380,000. With a different owner, how might the school building have been developed by now? Commonly, surplus schools are converted to residential facilities. With everything on ground level and in parklike surroundings, the Treadwell building would be ideal for senior citizens or the disabled. Such housing is sorely needed in our region.

The NEW Franklin Register.

The Newsletter of Franklin Local

Editorial Board

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

Editor
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!

At: The New Franklin Register
P.O. Box 258
Franklin, NY 13775
or by email: **nfr@franklinlocal.org**

What are we about?

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

Our mission statement: to work to preserve the rural character of Franklin, to grow the local economy, foster community solidarity, encourage volunteerism, and raise awareness of economic and social challenges that are likely to result from the 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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The NFR's 20th Anniversary Cake, cleverly created by Kacia Epps. Photo by Andy Bobrow

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RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DATE	LOCATION	ACRES	TYPE	ASSESS.	SALE	SELLER	BUYER	
05/30/26	Rich Rd	52.75	Forest s480a	$60,000	$40,000	Harper, Mary B	Carman, Kurt	
06/11/26	656 Chamberlain Hill Rd	3.00	1 Family Res	121,000	1,000	Pashley, Richard	Pashley, Richard	(R)
06/25/26	West Platner Brook Rd	10.10	Rural Vac>10	14,000	23,000	Doukas, Konstantinos	Cangero, Antonio	
07/09/26	1870 Carey Rd (2)	273.41	Rural Res	975,000	1,325,000	Bollinger, Robert	Boville Farms LL	(R)
07/25/26	425 Main St	0.16	Funeral Home	300,000	265,000	Keystone America Inc.	Gillet Brook LLC	
07/31/26	9174 County Hwy 16	0.40	1 Family Res	190,000	210,000	Toomim, Penelope K	Goodreau, Marcus	
08/11/26	1364 Otego Rd	1.10	1 Family Res	200,000	1,000	Barnes, David L	Barnes, David L	(R)
08/20/26	1625 Carey Rd	102.99	Rural Res	701,208	1,300,000	Jacobs, Robert	Boville Farms LLC	
08/26/26	3259 Freer Hollow Rd	8.00	1 Family Res	300,000	335,000	Carpentier, Francis	Fallon, Michael J	
08/26/26	686 Campbell Estates Rd	11.00	Rural Res	190,000	310,000	Pellegrini, Danny	Valdina, Joseph	
08/27/26	626 E Handsome Bk Rd	4.00	1 Family Res	200,000	180,401	Post, Gary	Post, Steven F	(R)
09/02/26	5585 State Hwy 28 S	1.00	1 Family Res	85,000	55,000	Cobane, Kathleen	Tabernacle of the Congregation	
09/08/26	2930 Blue School Rd	22.23	Rural res	190,000	160,000	D'Antonio, Nicholas J.	Mazanek, Edward	
09/16/26	1625 Carey Rd (2)	338.09	Rural Res	w/Walton		Boville Farms LLC,	Silvana Falco Living Trust	(R)
09/22/26	7000 State Hwy 357	0.75	1 Family Res	200,000	165,000	Maricle, Scott A	Stark, Julie	

(2) Two parcels **(R)** Relatives

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