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FREE

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...



*Out with the old, in with the new* .....page 2

*Forest management plan reviewed* .....page 3

*Civil War novel is reintroduced* .....page 4



*Hospital CEO is a good Scout* .....page 5

*Letters, opinion* .....page 6



*Arcade Project to set up shop downtown* .....page 8



*The civil war over the Civil War* .....page 9



*In Business Weekly: Bookstore has new life as a cooperative* .....page 11

## Dryden Mulls Land Use Law

By Nick Babel

More than 100 people packed the Dryden Town Hall on Wednesday, most of whom told the Dryden Town Board they support of the Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition (DRAC) and its petition to ban fracking by gas well drillers in the town.

DRAC spokesperson Marie McRae presented the board with a petition signed by 1,594 town residents. The petition asks the town board to ban fracking, and asks the town board to pass a protective zoning ordinance that would prevent gas companies from performing this type of drilling in the area.

"The signers are Dryden residents who believe that the impact of the gas extraction industry should not be allowed to disrupt our health, our towns infrastructure, or our quiet enjoyment of our life in Dryden," McRae said.

She explained that the petition was taken door-to-door by more than 30 volunteers, as well as being available online. She also stated that the list of signatures was checked for duplicate signatures and they were removed.

After DRAC's presentation to the board, some 25

residents spoke to the town board, and their message was clear, as all but one speaker urged officials to prevent slick water horizontal hydro-fracking.

The one dissenting opinion among the residents who spoke was attorney Henry Kramer, who challenged the town board's authority to pass such a resolution.

"Has the state given us

any legal authority to enact a ban on drilling in Dryden? Drilling in New York State is under consideration by state government, and there is no indication that the state will cede to local governments any power to override or impede whatever policy the state may decide upon," said Kramer. He warned that the town could face a lawsuit over the issue.

Kramer's opinion was not a popular one, and other Dryden residents who stated that they were lawyers refuted his claims. "The U.S. Supreme Court, and the New York State Court of Appeals both make it crystal clear by their decisions that you do have this authority," said David Slottje, who is an attorney with the Community Defense Council.

Many residents spoke passionately against gas drilling and they urged the town board to act promptly on this issue.

"Please take clear and decisive action to keep the worst from happening while you research long-term solutions," said Simon St. Laurent said. "Please stop forgetting about the damage these players have already wrought in their past endeavors. Please demonstrate to residents that the town is on their side, not the side of whoever comes to town with dreams of making piles of money here."

He continued, "Moving slowly on complex issues like Varna development and hydrofracking may seem like a prudent option, but delays are gambling with our futures. We may not live in a storybook para-

*Please turn to page 14*

## Spin Doctors



Photo by Kathy Morris

DJ Double A, left, of Ithaca's Gunpoets, went toe-to-toe on the turntables with hip-hop legend Afrika Bambaataa on April 14 at Theta Delta Chi fraternity house on the Cornell campus. Cornell's American Studies Program sponsored Bambaataa's visit to Ithaca for the symposium "Born in the Bronx: Afrika Bambaataa, Hip Hop & Radical Peace."

## Local Women Working the Wind

By Eric Banford

In the global energy mix, wind power is an up and coming technology. Wind power totaled 197 gigawatts (GW) worldwide at the end of 2010, a 24 percent increase in one year. China led the way with 18.9 GW added, followed by the U.S. (5 GW) and India (2 GW). Despite the slow economy, wind power is growing.

The number of women in the energy work force is growing as well. Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (C3E), a women's initiative, was launched with the initial support of eight governments at the first Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) last July 2. It aims to ensure everyone can contribute to, and benefit from, the clean energy revolution. C3E's stated goal is "to take cooperative steps toward a world where women across societies are in a position to actively contribute to the clean energy revolution to an equal degree as men."

Locally, two women are stepping up as renewable energy pioneers. Marguerite Wells and Lexie Hain are now majority owners of Enfield Energy, the company developing the Black Oak Wind Farm. According to Wells, "We might be the first women-owned energy company in the U.S."

Enfield Energy was started in 2006 by developer John Rancich, but, as Wells puts it, "John has been working

on this for eight years now and is basically burned out. Lexie and I had been informally going to all of the meetings and doing the public speaking, but a year ago we transitioned to us having majority ownership. John is still a minority owner, and he still participates in decisions, but he has stepped way back from his formerly public face on the project."

Enfield Energy has applied for certification as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), which could give them an advantage in the renewable energy market. Contracts with state money give priority to minority- and women-owned businesses enterprises (MWBE). State contractors are mandated to use 20 percent MWBE, and Govs. Robert Paterson and Andrew Cuomo have stepped up that emphasis. "This has helped our women-owned business Motherplants. Our hope is it will also help us in the renewable energy market," Wells says.

New York State has adopted an aggressive goal of obtaining 30 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015. The New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) asks on its Requests for Proposals (RFPs), "Are you a Minority or Women-Owned Business Enterprise?" Given NYSERDA's goals of "reducing energy consumption, promoting the use of renewable energy

sources and protecting the environment," being a MWBE in the energy production business could help.

Enfield Energy is in the middle of its environmental impact study (EIS), with noise and bird surveys currently underway. Once completed, the draft EIS will be sent to the Town of Enfield and interested agencies for review. The state Department of Conservation (DEC) and the Historical Preservation Agency are the two main agencies; towns, highway departments, emergency responders and various others are also involved.

Interconnection permits are also underway. The power line near the wind farm site is owned by NYSEG, and has been certified by New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) to have enough capacity for the proposed 50 megawatts of wind power. NYISO runs the statewide grid, and is conducting a System Reliability Impact Study (SRIS) to determine how the wind farm will impact the grid.

Next year, a facilities study will examine the state grid to determine how new power generators fit in. Wells added that, "Each study is longer and more expensive, and we're slowly getting through the process."

Both Hain and Wells attended the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, receiving master of science degrees in environmental sustainability. When

*Please turn to page 14*

# Arcade Project Sets Up Shop on Commons

By Ann Krajewski

On Friday, May 6, an empty storefront on the Commons will be transformed into an experimental marketplace of literature, art and design.

Several local and regional independent presses, makers of art books and editions, conceptual artists, video installation artists, and indie craft vendors will convene to offer visitors an alternative and thought-provoking shopping experience.

"Arcades Project is a concept that was inspired by the work of Walter Benjamin, who wrote about the Paris arcades that were popular in the mid-19th century," David Pollock, co-founder of the event, says. "They took the shopping experience and turned it into an event because of the way merchandise was presented and interpreted. It was a study of modernity in the way that the marketplace was changing the way that people socialize."

The vendors in the Arcades Project include A-Jump, Essay Press, Essays & Fictions, Garlic Press, Harpur Palate, Split Oak Press, Stockport Flats and the Wells College Book Arts Center.



Photo Ann Krajewski

**Danielle Winterton and David Pollock are the driving forces behind the Arcades Project, a celebration of arts and letters.**

Visual artists Elizabeth Whitehouse, Kaleb Hunkele, Scott McCarney, Kathy Morris, Josh Sperling and Steve Poleskie, will "vend" their editions, multiples and other indie crafts in the marketplace.

The Arcades Project will also host a curated series of works by selected visual artists who explore the relationship between literary and visual arts, text and image, or art and shopping.

Works include a performance installation by Buffalo-based artist Jamie O'Neil, who will peddle his 'skippisox' product to gallery visitors, and a pirate press by Thomas Gokey, whose participatory work deals with "the overthrow of global capitalism and the protection of democracy through non-violent methods and the purity of true love."

Local artist Werner Sun will invert the notion of the artist's book by turning sculptures into books, rather than books into sculptures, in a large-scale kinetic mobile made from strips of paper printed with digital images.

"Arcades Project participants are reconsidering the idea of text, writing and the book," says Danielle Winterton, one of the project's founders and co-founding editor of Ithaca-based Essays & Fictions

Press.

"The rise of the e-reader has coincided with special attention paid to the printed book. On one end of the spectrum you have the book as art object, with poets hand-sewing their own limited edition chapbooks. On the other end, you have mass-produced standardized titles from big publishing houses," she says.

"All sorts of exciting independent publishing projects are happening in between, but matters of visibility and distribution are a frequent problem. A public marketplace such as Arcades Project can connect these book artists with buyers in a fun, dynamic and perhaps even a bit of a chaotic way," says Winterton.

There is a crossover between literature and visual arts that happens when an independent press designs and makes a title, artist and project co-founder Karen Brummund says. "So it is only logical to extend this kind of marketplace to makers of editions and multiples, such as prints, T-shirts, and broadsides. Going forward, we hope to encourage more local artists to create limited-edition projects specifically to sell at future Arcades Project events."

The event will take place on May 6 from 5-9 p.m. at 135 the Commons in the former Night and Day location. It is part of the Spring Writes literary festival in Ithaca, coinciding with Gallery Night, and supported in part by funding from the Community Arts Partnership.

For more information contact [emailarcadesproject.com](mailto:emailarcadesproject.com).

## May Day Events at T-burg School

A 5K run/walk is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, in Trumansburg with live music from Richie Stearns and friends. The May Day 5K starts and finishes at Trumansburg School and travels the same route as the Chris Bond Run. Runners and spectators can enjoy live music in the outdoor pavilion, a chicken barbecue and ice cream from the Cayuga Lake Creamery. Numerous raffles and drawings will be held, and age group winners receive medals. For more information or to register visit [www.mayday5k.org](http://www.mayday5k.org).

## Welcoming Internal Medicine Specialists Dr. Cynthia Blair Jones and Dr. Samson Pachikara



**Cynthia Blair Jones, MD, PhD**  
Board Certified  
Internal Medicine



**Samson Pachikara, MD**  
Board Certified  
Internal Medicine



*Dr. Jones and Dr. Pachikara join CMA physicians John-Paul Mead, MD, Walter E. Margie III, MD at their Brentwood practice, 16 Brentwood Drive, just off Warren Road, Ithaca.*

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