



Katherine Darling prepares a week's worth of produce for her subscribers. In this week's order there were shiny sweet cherry tomatoes, enormous succulent raspberries, crisp new cukes, green zucchini and yellow summer squash, parsley, basil, summer salad mix, and an absolutely huge bouquet of fresh fragrant flowers.
Photo: Heather Makechnie

Local Grower Supplies Fresh Produce Through CSA

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

Katherine Darling grew up in Andover, attending AE/MS and Proctor. She went away to Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington and then Prescott College, in Prescott, Arizona, where she majored in field ecology.

"I worked for awhile, then, in North Carolina, where I learned about a new type of farming called 'CSA' or Community Supported Agriculture, which is subscription-based production. I want to return to the land, this is how I hope to sustain myself for a living. I came back home and entered into a land-sharing agreement with the Brosheks at 76 Shaw Hill Road in Andover, and I am in the process of creating a CSA here in this area."

According to a USDA definition, Community Supported Agriculture

"typically consists of members or shareholders of the farm or garden who pledge in advance to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation and farmer's salary. In return, they receive shares in the farm's bounty throughout the growing season, as well as satisfaction gained from reconnecting to the land and participating directly in food production. Members also share in the risks of farming, including poor harvests due to unfavorable weather or pests. By direct sales to community members, who have provided the farmer with working capital in advance, growers receive better prices for their crops, gain some financial security, and are relieved of much of the burden of marketing."

At the beginning of the season members contract with Katherine to pay \$300 for 15 weeks of a changing variety of fresh, organic produce, which is boxed and picked up by them once a week.

Katherine may be reached at 2mtfarm@gmail.com.

THE 15TH!!!!

Please have everything to the Beacon by the 15th of each month!

Franklin Opera House Honors Four Visionaries

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

On Tuesday, July 22, the non-profit Franklin Opera House, Inc. held its regular annual meeting, to which all members, sponsors, advertisers, and supporters were invited. At the meeting a new award was inaugurated, to be bestowed only if circumstances are judged appropriate and worthy, rather than on an annual basis. This extraordinary acknowledgement takes the form of *The Franklin Opera House VIP Award*, designed to recognize outstanding contributions in bringing the arts to the community of Franklin, the Lakes Region, and beyond. And, indeed, the award was given by the officers and board at this year's meeting.

Receiving the prestigious award in honor of their hard work and dedication were Immediate Past Executive Director Steven D. Foley, former City Councilor Randy Perkins, Norma Schofield, and former Mayor David Palfrey.

The Franklin Opera House Web site states, "Immediately after its opening in September of 1893, and for the next 50 years, the Franklin Opera House was a venue for balls, dances, lectures, plays, musicals, vaudeville shows, concerts, school productions, and graduation ceremonies. However, after World War II, as the country began to tune into television and respond to commercial cinema, use of the Opera House declined. The needs of city government grew and [encroached upon space in the building.] Once an important and vital social center of the community, the building ceased to provide the entertainment for which it was designed."

In 1999, however, with the vision of



the four awardees, City Hall began its transformation back into the Franklin Opera House. "The drop ceiling was removed, partitions forming offices on stage were torn down, and in 2001, the first shows in 30 years lit up the proscenium and breathed life into the grand old building."

"This started with just a few people who wanted to see it come alive," said opera house Award Chair Laurie Downie. "We wanted to pay tribute and honor the people who have made such a great impact."

Next on stage, on Friday, August 15, at 1 and 7 PM, is Disney's *The Jungle Book*, produced and performed by The Franklin Area Children's Theater. Tickets are just \$7.

Franklin Footlight Theatre will put on *Hello Dolly* on August 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30 at 7:30 PM, and August 24 and 31 at 2 PM. Reserve seating for all shows is \$12 to \$16, except Thursday, August 21 and 28, when general admission tickets are \$8.



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