



Town of Franklin

June 2002 Newsletter

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June 2002

Town of Franklin

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TOWN OFFICIALS

Town Supervisor

Mary Ellen Keith

Deputy Supervisor

Gene Goff

Town Councilmen

Janet Goff

Timothy Goff

Walter Kretser

Town Justice

Roger Symonds

Highway Superintendent

Donald Vorrath

Deputy Highway Supt.

Michael Canty

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Lauren LeFebvre

Attorney for the Town

Edward Murphy

Assessor

Douglas Tichenor

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Code Enforcement Officer

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TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

Regular town board meetings are held the second Monday of each month. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, July, 8, 2002.

The board will hold a workshop meeting June 17, 2002, at 6:30 p.m.

Check the town Web site for up-to-date information on upcoming town events and meetings, minutes of past meetings and agendas for upcoming meetings.

July 4 Community Family Picnic

by Lauren LeFebvre

The Celebration Committee has been hard at work planning the Town of Franklin Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration (henceforth known as "the bash"). I'm not going to go into all that we have planned and use up my front page space! I've been dying to make the front page since this newsletter began. I do want to elaborate on the events that we can laugh at our neighbors purely in a neighborly, fun way.

I have to start with the "Most Patriotic Baby" contest. I wouldn't laugh at the babies, I'd laugh at the poor soul that gets stuck with the job of judging that contest. There isn't a parent or grandparent alive who is going to smile a real, genuine smile as their little Uncle Sam takes second place! That judge isn't going to win any popularity contests.

Speaking of judges, what about the judges for the "Men of the Town Chili Cook-Off"? Can you say "habeñero"? Enough said with that one.

Games are always fun to watch, especially when they involve tying people together and making them run. The "Family Pairs 3-Legged Race" will be just that. There's nothing like watching a father trying to curb his competitive nature with a two-year-old strapped to his leg.

The Potato Sack race has a pretty good potential to be really funny, too. I can't think of why so we'll all just have to be pleasantly surprised.

Watermelon Seed Spitting. I just don't know where to begin with this. I'm dying to see the sign-up sheet for this. Spitting for distance. Some people are very proud of their prowess in this sport. (I know sport is not the right word, but what is?) My only advice for these contestants is, "Yes, it is true, a watermelon will grow in your stomach".

Something that harkens back to days of the Town of Franklin's infancy is the Hog Calling Contest. I've never actually seen one of these, but I must say if a pig shows up while you are in the middle your big "SOOOOWEEEEEE!" you win, my friend.

The laugh of all laughs has got to be the "JUST FOR FUN TALENT SHOW". No talent is necessary to participate in this one. That's the good part. The Celebration Committee is still looking for musicians to help out with this part of the day. So far we have drums and a really good-looking drummer. My husband, Jeff. Drums alone are great if your talent is rain-dancing but I think we need a few more instruments. If you'd like to be part of the band, let Jeff know-soon! I hear through the grapevine that we have a few singing groups practicing already. Call me to sign up.

It's probably about this time that you are wondering, "What happened to the cream-pie

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Summer Youth Program to begin July 8

The Town of Franklin will again host the Summer Youth Program. The six week program will begin on Monday, July 8. The daily program will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is held at the town park.

Bill Wilson and Meghan Arnold will return this year as program director and assistant director. Activities are well thought out and the kids are kept busy. Parents



are given a weekly calendar of events so they know what to expect each day and what clothing the kids will need.

One parent was overheard saying at the last board meeting, "The kids have so much fun. At the end of the day they're tired as all get out! Which is great!"

Call the town hall for registration information❖

COMMUNITY GROUPS INTRODUCE TOWN TUESDAYS

Come one and all the Town of Franklin Town Tuesdays, which are scheduled to begin in June.

What is a Town Tuesday? Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith has organized the various committees groups and organizations to set aside the third Tuesday of every month hold fund-raising events at the Franklin Town Hall in Vermontville.

The first Town Tuesday will be Strawberry Tuesday on June 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and will feature every kind strawberry desserts and Michigan hot dogs.

Stop on your way home from work, or on your way to the ball game with the kids. With your donation, get a quick snack and be on your way.

Or stay awhile and visit neighbors and friends. Give the town supervisor your two cents. Let us hear your take on how you think the highway department is doing. Compare notes on how all the rain is drowning your garden. Relax.

How easy and pleasant can it get to support those who put in so much for your behalf?

Future Town Tuesdays? Come in next month and see. Rumors of a future Homemade Pizza Tuesday are floating around. Who knows what else may evolve?

Come on! Consider this your personal invitation!

Roadside Clean Up Workers Did a Great Job!

Thanks! to all of the volunteers who helped with the town's Roadside Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 18. The cold, wet weather wasn't pleasant and the water made the litter heavier.

Middle schoolers Karyssa Tuthill, Brittany Yando, and Autumn Martin headed up Cold Brook Road filling their bags until they ran into Bruce Young who was coming with bags of trash from the other direction. The girls then headed out for Fletcher Farm Road.

The Robert, Karrie, and Tyler Peck braved the Muzzy Road and probably set the record for the amount of bags they filled. Board members Janet Goff headed out with Ed Murphy and Walt Kretzer to the Oregon Plains Road. A couple from Onchiota came for their bags and then headed out. Other workers came and went with bags they filled near their homes. Frank Karl was one of the drivers who went up and down the roads collecting filled bags to bring back to the town truck parked at the back of the town hall.

Most of the volunteers finished up by noon and then met at the town hall where Gene Goff and Mary Ellen Keith provided a hot lunch of stew and hot dogs, soda and hot chocolate, and dessert.

When all was said and done the town highway department delivered the whole mess to the County of Franklin Solid Waste Management Authority site in Lake Clear. The CFSWMA allowed a discount to the town for the clean up.❖

Board Workshop Meeting Monday, June 17

The Town Board is planning a workshop meeting for Monday, June 17, 2002, in order to visit the physical facilities throughout the town.

Roger Symonds, who is the head of the Saranac Lake Central School District's buildings and grounds, will join the board. He will use his expertise in pointing out to the board his recommendations on areas that may need attention.

The tour is the board's first step in putting together a long-term capital improvement plan. They also will be gathering information on need that may have to be addressed in next year's budget planning this fall.

The meeting will start at the town hall at 6:30 p.m. Workshop meetings are open to the public.❖

ATV CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PLANNED

A meeting is scheduled for all-terrain vehicle users at the Franklin County Court House on June 26, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.

The ATV users hope to set up a club similar to the Tri-Lakes Snowmobilers. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.❖

Highway Superintendent's Report

by Donald Vorrath

Prep work continues on the Plank Road for paving. The reconstruction involves removing and replacing of existing culverts, removal of rocks (boulders), and the shimming of existing roadway to be level for the actual two inches of new asphalt. Crusher run has been hauled and tamped where the rocks were removed and culverts replaced. The Plank Road work is part of, but not exclusive to, the CHIPS program.

Rainy days are spent at the garage. Repair work on the sander is 90% complete. Work includes replacement of the main support I-beam, cross supports, and

refurbished grates. The power steering pump on the tractor (for mowing) will need to be either replaced or repaired.

All highway brooming is complete, except where re-brooming is needed to clear material washed on roads during recent heavy rains. Sand removal at three town intersections is completed (Swinyer Road and Oregon Plains Road, Old Route 3 and Route 3, and Norman Ridge and Fletcher Farm Road.)

Downed trees have been cut and, in most cases, chipped. The windstorms put a crimp into scheduled plans.

Along with Deputy Highway Superintendent Mike Canty, I attended the 57th

Annual Highway School at Ithaca College, sponsored by the Cornell Local Roads Program and the Association of Towns and Villages. Over 400 highway personnel and town officials attended.

Cornell shared their research on the future of highways. Over the past 20 years, nation wide, road usage is up 1.7 times; truck usage is up 2.5 times. Highway superintendents were told that today's road construction methods will soon be substandard. In the future, the quality of highway construction will need to be brought up to meet the needs of greater usage and bigger, heavier trucks. As they put it, "We need to build the roads to hold the loads."❖

Landfill Report

by Frank Karl

This is the time of year when the County of Franklin Solid Waste Management Authority (CFSWMA) works out its budget for the coming year. Our fiscal year is from July 1 until June 30. The preliminary budget for 2002-03 is projected to be just under \$4 million. How is the revenue to meet these expenses achieved?

The New York State legislation that created the Solid Waste Authority and thus the landfill, provided that the tipping fees, whether they be from individuals, organizations such as schools or jails, haulers, other counties, and other outside county waste, be such that they cover the operating costs, debt services, capital, and other expenses necessary to operate, maintain, and improve the solid waste operation which includes the landfill and three transfer stations at Malone, Tupper Lake, and Lake Clear.

Other than continuing to meet its financial obligations and ensuring that revenues continue to meet expenses, possibly the most important decision facing the CFSWMA and the county legislature is, "What do we want the future of the landfill to be?" Some options:

- Continue the operation pretty much the way it is today, gradually expanding to met current county needs and additional revenues (outside the county) to

meet expenses, understanding that when the bonds are paid off (in approximately ten years) our expenses decrease appreciably and future revenue needs and tipping fees should reflect that; or

- Look towards expanding the operation to provide a possible market for outside county waste as a source of additional revenues in the future. This would necessitate considerable advance planning and investigation as to the expansion of existing facilities, necessary permits, costs, impact on communities, etc.

- Variations of both of these options are also a consideration. Of paramount consideration has to be the residents of Franklin County and what they envision our future needs to be, including those in proximity of our facilities and the impact on them.

The only simple answer on which I feel all (or at least most) parties would agree to is that we should continue to op-

erate the authority in the black (making a profit) and as economically as possible in consideration of the fees that our taxpayers pay to use these facilities. I do believe it should be "user fee" supported and not some form of curbside pick-up fee added to our taxes. First of all, I don't know of a single curb in the Town of Franklin, and secondly, many of our residents don't generate enough garbage to use our facilities on a regular basis. If they would afford to, they would probably buy more or better food instead.

The authority is continuing to work on an acceptable Comprehensive Recycling Plan with the Department of Environmental Conservation and hopes to have it completed in the near future. Meanwhile, I'm sure those who use the transfer station at Lake Clear have noticed how it has improved. Continue to recycle, and be sure that you and/or your haulers use the Franklin County facilities.❖

The following letter was received at the Town Hall recently:

Board Members and Highway Department Workers,

I want to express my thanks for the work performed around Old Rt. 3 and Rt. 3 adjacent to my home. The removal of the accumulated winter sand has improved the area's appearance and drainage. The highway crew workers visited my home, inquired about our concerns, and shortly thereafter commenced the work.

Enclosed is a check for the Town Recreation Committee as a token of our appreciation.

Sincerely,
George Campion
June 5, 2002

Board chooses to take time to study PWC controversy

At the May 2002 regular meeting of the Franklin Town Board, the Loon Lake Homeowner's Association (LLHA) asked the board to consider passing a law to prohibit the use of personal watercraft (PWCs) on Loon Lake. Although the LLHA urged to town to act quickly, the board decided that they will need to address several issues before action is taken.

Town councilman Walter Kretzer will lead the board in researching the debate.

One of the board's concerns is the

equipment itself. While noise and safety are two factors against the use PWCs, makers of PWCs claim that new equipment is designed to be quieter and safer.

Kretzer will also look into whether or not the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has any rules that involve PWCs.

There also needs to be clarification of how the ban would be implemented. Recognizing that the land surrounding Loon Lake is all privately owned, the board questions whether or not the lake

is, in fact, a private lake, and how that may affect enforcement.

While the majority of LLHA members were reported as being in favor of the ban, the board would also like to give the opportunity for PWC users to present their side of the matter.

The board would like to hear from anyone in the town who would like to weigh in on either side of the issue.

As yet, they have set no deadline on when they will be ready to vote on the law. ❖

HUD applicants notified of approval

Seventeen homeowners have been notified by the Friends of the North Country that they are eligible for HUD grants for housing rehabilitation and replacement. These homeowners had applied to Friends this spring. Housing rehabilitation specialists from Friends will be meeting with these homeowners to begin the planning paperwork.

Friends will solicit bids from their list of pre-approved contractors, and work will begin this summer.

Friends of the North Country, in Keeseville, works with the Town of Franklin to distribute the federal HUD money. This is the town's third HUD grant. In past years Friends and the town

worked directly with the federal government. This grant will be administered through New York State's Governor's Office for Small Cities (GOSC).

The original target of the grant is 17 households. However, any money left over when these projects are completed will allow Friends to reopen their Inquiry List to serve more applicants. ❖

Board help sought in getting electricity for Goldsmith

According to Roland LaPier, at one time Goldsmith was a thriving community with a post office, a hotel, and . . . electricity. Today, however, the residents on Goldsmith Road have been denied the right to run power lines up the road to their camps and homes.

LaPier has been told by the Department of Environmental Conservation

that two sections of the road are owned by the State of New York, and it is illegal to run electric lines over state land. The road was initially a lane that ran over private property which over time became used as a roadway.

Although the road has been widened and maintained by the town over the

years, it isn't clear whether or not the Town of Franklin or Franklin County ever formally took over ownership of the road. LaPier has asked the town's help in researching the history of the road.

If research shows that the roadway is, in fact, owned by the town or the county, power lines can be run. ❖

Franklin Falls Cemetery needs work

Mrs. Helen Arnold attended the June board meeting to report her concerns about the condition of the Franklin Falls cemetery. According to Mrs. Arnold, many of the gravestones are down, the graves are sunken in, and the road is in poor repair. At the time of her report, a tree was down across the top of the road on the hill.

The Franklin Falls Cemetery actually is split down the middle between the Town of St. Armand and the Town of Franklin. There have been unspoken agreements in the past that each town would contribute to maintaining the

property, but that understanding seems to have unraveled over the years. The Town of Franklin has put fill in the road and has been out to the property mowing. The stones on Town of Franklin's side of the cemetery have been repaired.

The Town of Franklin does not have a map of the graves sites, and Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith will look into getting a copy of the document.

The board agreed with Mrs. Arnold that it is time to communicate with the Town of St. Armand to work out an agreement to properly maintain the cemetery. ❖

Moose Trek Through Town

Reports have come in to the town hall from the Norman Ridge/Cold Brook Road area that a pair of moose have been traveling through the area. One is a large moose with a rack, and the smaller one may be its mate.

One Cold Brook Road resident went over the Norman Ridge fields where the moose passed through and reported that it was easy to track where they had been.

"It looked almost as if a piece of farm equipment had been driven through. They left a wide path of trampled down plants and you could see where their hooves dug into the earth." ❖

TOWN OF FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL 2002 GRADUATES

<i>Joe Amell</i>	<i>Dan Hamm</i>
<i>Danielle Bacque</i>	<i>Jessica Guckett</i>
<i>Anna Berg</i>	<i>Evan Kislen</i>
<i>Lee Bramer</i>	<i>Keith Kogut</i>
<i>Nathaniel Buchanan</i>	<i>Julia Lightbody</i>
<i>Ashley Buxton</i>	<i>Reese Lippacher</i>
<i>Sam Cerminara</i>	<i>Kenneth Martell</i>
<i>Dusty Dashnaw</i>	<i>Chad Nichols</i>
<i>Sean Dekkers</i>	<i>Brian Shortell</i>
<i>Jesse Duke</i>	<i>Erin Spencer</i>
<i>Bruce Goff</i>	<i>Alicia Whitson</i>

Scholarship Committee Congratulates Graduates

by Shir Filler

The Town of Franklin Scholarship Committee offers our congratulations to all the graduating Saranac Lake High School seniors from the Town of Franklin. You have accomplished a lot, and we hope you will continue to attempt greater and greater goals in your life.

To help you with that, each year the Scholarship Committee offers scholarships to eligible Town of Franklin students. Although the scholarships are not needs-based, they are not available to students going to school on full scholarships.

The requirements for application are:

- 1) that you (or your parents) live in the town of Franklin;
- 2) that you have completed at least one semester of post-high school education (college or vocational school), and
- 3) that you have achieved at least a "B" average.
- 4)

The application is simple. The yearly deadline is April 1, but you can apply at any time. Contact Shir Filler at 891-6755, or e-mail shir@northnet.org. By

regular mail the address is HCR 1 Box 18A, Bloomingdale, NY 12913.

The Town of Franklin Scholarship Fund is administered by a group of town resident volunteers and is funded entirely by voluntary donations from businesses and individuals for the sole purpose of helping local residents pursue postsecondary education in the form of college or vocational school.

Current members of the Scholarship Committee include Fran Oliver, Lorraine Rumble, Al Berg, Walt Kretser, Reid Fitzsimons and Shir Filler. ❖

July 4 Town Picnic

(Continued from page 1)

throwing?" I'm wondering that myself. I had only one person show interest in it at all. But, I've got to tell you, the Highway Superintendent was ready to run for cover if I pulled it off. Maybe next year.

We couldn't let the birthday of our great nation go by without honoring those people in town that have made us proud and have made their mark in Town of Franklin's history book. One such person was Curt Tyler. Curt will be forever a part of the town as we gather to dedicate the second baseball field at Kate Mt. Park in his memory as Curtis Tyler Memorial Field.

Funds and nominations are still needed to pay tribute to the "Citizen of the Year". This will, with any luck, be a surprise to the recipient. I'm not sure if an entire town can keep a secret. See me or Janet Goff to help out with this one.

Now if you're wondering what I'm doing that day, keep on wondering. I'd pay money to see myself spit a watermelon seed for distance. Talent? I've been told I sing Happy Birthday like a Gregorian chant. Would I tie my child to my leg and run? Ha! Actually, I'm up for anything. We only go around once, it's my ambition to make it fun.

Please, please, please, if you want to sign up for any of the competitions--pie eating, chili, hog calling, seed spitting, artwork, patriotic baby, or the talent show--let me know soon. Any musicians who want to help out as back-up for the singing, let Jeff know soon. Darn, I forgot to mention the Scholarship Committee's White Elephant Sale! (See Shir Filler for that.) I also forgot the Perennial Plant Swap. (See Kathy Fadden for that one.)

I guess I've said my piece about the day. The Celebration Committee thought this would be a great day to just be together with friends and family. We all live in the Town of Franklin because we have chosen to. There must be a reason why. I don't think it's the LOOOOONG winter or the black flies. I think it's the spirit of the town and it's people. I think it's the feeling of belonging. I think it's a great place to live.

Hope to see you there! I'm going to be laughing!❖

White Elephant Sale to Benefit Scholarship Fund

Beginning at 9 a.m. on July 4, as part of the town-wide celebration at Kate Mountain Recreational Park, the Town of Franklin Scholarship Committee will be holding a benefit White Elephant Sale.

Anyone who wants to set up a table is welcome to do so in return for a

donation to the Scholarship Fund. Additionally, the Scholarship Committee will be accepting donations of items for sale starting at 8:30 a.m.

No clothing, please. Donors must pick up any unsold items at the end of the day. Call Shir Filler for more information at 891-6755.❖

FEMA Deadline for Earthquake Damage July 16

Property owners who feel they may have property damage from the April 20, 2002, earthquake have until July 16, 2002, to report the damage to Federal Emergency Management Agency for possible aid in making repairs.

For the most part, the rocking and rolling came and went without leaving any signs. Anyone from the west coast who has experienced earthquakes along the famous California faults wouldn't have been too impressed with ours.

However, an earthquake magnitude of 5.1 does have the ability to do property damage, especially to older buildings and foundations. Although it initially was overlooked, Franklin County has been added to the FEMA's list of counties eligible for disaster assistance.

Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith

recommends that anyone who may possibly have damage should carefully check their homes and property. She also would like to get the word out to seasonal homeowners who may only just now be coming up for the summer that they should inspect their property.

According to Keith, anyone who finds any damage should call FEMA. At this point, it is not necessary to prove that the damage was actually done by the earthquake. However, any damage not reported to FEMA by the July 16 deadline will not be considered for disaster assistance.

Homeowners, renters and businesses can apply by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (or 3362). The FEMA office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.❖

Emergency generators to be installed

As a result of the 1998 Ice Storm, the Town of Franklin was given two generators by Franklin County to be used during emergencies. Town Councilman Tim Goff has been overseeing installation of one generator in the town hall, and he will follow up with Paul Goodwin to go ahead with the work.

Remembering how Loon Lake residents were isolated and frozen in for several weeks during the ice storm, the

board is looking for a site in Loon Lake as an emergency space to set up the second generator. Because the heating system at the Merrillville Town Hall is electric, the generator is not be able to run it. Dr. Neil Miller agreed to help the board research some Loon Lake sites.

The generators would be able to provide lights and to ignite furnaces for temporary shelter in emergencies.❖

The Town of Franklin newsletter is provided by the Town of Franklin Town Board. Distribution of the newsletter is difficult. Thank you to Gene's Grocery, Norman's General Store, and Bloomin' Market for agreeing to have them on hand for their customers. The newsletter is also one of the many sites available on the town Website, www.townoffranklin.com.

Can we ask you help? Take two or three and pass them along to relatives, friends, and neighbors. Let us know if you have some distribution ideas.

We also are willing to put together a mailing list. If you, or someone you know, would like to get the newsletter by mail, call Lauren LeFebvre at 891-2189, or Lorrie Rumble at 891-3133.❖