



Town of Franklin

December 2002 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 12

December 2002

Town of Franklin

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TOWN OFFICIALS

Town Supervisor
Mary Ellen Keith
Deputy Supervisor
Gene Goff

Town Councilmen

Timothy Goff
Walter Kretser
Janet Ordway
Town Justice
Roger Symonds

Highway Superintendent

Donald Vorrath

Deputy Highway Supt.

Michael Cauty

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Lauren LeFebvre

Attorney for the Town

Edward Murphy

Assessor

Douglas Tichenor
483-0188

Code Enforcement Officer

Edward Lagree
891-5976

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

Regular town board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Franklin Town Hall. The meetings are open to the public.

The board will meet for a year-end meeting on Monday, December 30, 2002, at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, January 13, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

Check the town Website for up-to-date information on upcoming town events and meetings, minutes of past meetings, and agendas for upcoming meetings, plus lots of other information on the Town of Franklin. ❖

Join Santa at Town Tuesday Pot Luck Dinner, Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.



Happy Holiday Wishes from the Town of Franklin Town Board

Funding Options Studied by Building Use Committee

For Sale: Former Franklin Town Hall in Vermontville, New York. Excellent location for small business. Building needs lots of work.

That may be a bit premature. No one really is putting the building up for sale at this point. But no one can say that the town's Building Use Committee isn't looking at all the options.

At their December meeting, the committee found that

while some of the issues of what to do for the future of the town hall facilities are quantitative – how many offices are needed, what space requirements do each have – there are many questions that aren't easily answered. They've also found that some of the assumptions they started with may not hold up, one being that everyone would be in agreement that preserving the Franklin Town Hall would be a priority.

Frank Karl reminded the

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E-911 Progress Report to Board

So, just when will you get your new E-911 address? The short answer is "well into January." The long answer is

Richard Brown and Donald Work, the Project Team for the Franklin County Office of Emergency Services 911 Numbering Project, wrote to the town board to update them on their project. The assignment of numbers on their grid of roads on the map of the Town of Franklin has been completed.

Brown says that with that fieldwork, ten percent of the project is done. "Now it's time to work up the field data – to tie in people's names with the identified lots and match up phone numbers," he said.

"We've been getting a lot of phone calls from people asking what their new address will be," he said, "but there's still a lot of work to be done before a final addresses can be assigned."

The team sent a questionnaire to every resident in the town, with a postage-paid

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Closing of Ames Difficult for Local Folks

by Mary Ellen Keith

It has always been my tradition for everyone in the family and others to receive a gift at Christmas. The gifts are never the most expensive gifts, but rather a little item of interest to the person – a unique gift, something handy, or silly, or a family heirloom treasure, or homemade items.

I collect these items as I find them for each person throughout the whole year. (I

have, however, changed my tradition a bit. I now put all gifts collected during the year in one spot where I can find them when I need them.) By the first of November, I really become serious about completing my list.

Not this year! Ames in Saranac Lake closed its doors! Oh, yes, I have patronized local stores and made do with what they offer for the price I

(Continued on page 3)

Town of Franklin Youth Are The Best!

by Lorraine Rumble

Local government and community life can be taken for granted. It's easy to live day to day and fret over what "they" do and "they" don't do. A lot of people work hard to keep things going in the Town of Franklin, and most of them are volunteers.

They stock shelves at the food pantry, bring shovels and rakes to the rec park, stir pots and make up salads at fundraising dinners, and put their heads together with councilmen on town committees.

Among the those who come out to volunteer, many of them are our town youth. With school and sports and homework and clubs, most of these kids already have busy lives, but still they come out to help when we need them. Some of them come with their parents, and some come on their own.

Tyler Peck, Brittany Yando, Karyssa Tuthill, and Autumn Martin braved cold rain last May to help pick up on roadside litter day. Maryssa Romeo, Harley Stankus, Bryon and Tim Keith, and Danny and John Keith help at the food pantry. Autumn and Veronica LeFebvre were on hand helping mom at the Easter egg hung, at Town Tuesdays and at the town picnic. Help from Brooke Sy-

monds and Josh Euber was invaluable at fundraising dinners. Thank you, Forest Fitzsimons, for the music at the town picnic.

We will all benefit for years to come from Bryon Tuthill's and Clayton Smalley's Eagle Scout projects.

Then there was the biggie. Town kids who showed up, along with many of the above mentioned, to help with the Halloween Haunted House included Hannah Arnold, David Bova, Ian Fadden, Lauren Garrow, Carrie Neill, Brent Peckham (OK, you didn't make it on the big night, but you had some great ideas to add at one of the pre-planning meetings), Hannah Sporn, Cheryl Wilson, and Mallory Yando. These kids came to several planning meetings and set-up nights.

And thanks to Cathy King for coming to the planning meetings and helping at the Haunted House. Although she is now a young lady, Cathy has always been an enthusiastic and dependable volunteer.

Congratulations to the parents for raising such wonderful kids. Whether they stay in town or move on when they grow up, these kids give us a lot of faith that our future will be in good hands.❖

(It's inevitable that I missed a name or two. Let me know. I'll say a special Thank You in the next issue. -Lorrie.)

Thanks for Support!

by Shir Filler

The Town of Franklin Scholarship Committee has accomplished a lot in 2002. Though committee chair Reid Fitzsimons went off to take part in medical missions in Guatemala and now Kenya, the committee also gained new members Walt Kretser and Lorrie Rumble. They joined continuing members Fran Oliver and Al Berg, while Shir Filler stepped into the role of chairperson.

In May, the committee awarded three \$250 scholarships, to Kelley Moore, Stephen Gothard, and Reiko Rexilius-Tuthill, all students at North Country Community College. The deadline for the next round of scholarship applications is April 1, 2003, and any student residing in the Town of Franklin who has completed at least one semester of post-high school education with at least a B average and who is not on a full scholarship is encouraged to apply. Contact Shir Filler at shir@northnet.org or HCR 1 Box 18A, Bloomingdale, NY 12913, for an application or more information.

The committee held two fund-raisers in 2002, a white elephant sale at the town July 4th celebration at Kate Mt. Park, and the First Annual Lasagna Dinner in September to mark the start of the school year. Some of the many supporters in these endeavors were Dave Dekkers and Adirondack Medical Center, Gene Goff and Gene's Grocery, the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, and Tops Friendly Markets.

Plans already have been made for fund raising for April 2004 scholarships. Town resident Mike Canty, who had done extensive research in grant funding for scholarship organizations, met with committee members in December. The first fundraiser will be a mailing in January to businesses and residents. Another white elephant sale is planned for summer, and the committee is looking forward to the Second Annual Back-to-School Lasagna Dinner to be held in September 2003.

The 2002 fundraisers were very successful, which means it will be possible to increase the 2003 scholarship awards. Thanks, again, to all the neighbors and friends in the town who support of Town of Franklin youth.❖

Help Wanted

The Saranac Lake Adult Center is in need of volunteer drivers for its Meals on Wheels program. Delivering weekday noon meals to homebound senior citizens can be a rewarding experience. Mileage is paid through the RSVP Program. To find out more about this unique way to help older folks, call Betty at 891-2980.



Upcoming Dates At A Glance

- Town Tuesday - Dec. 17 Pot Luck supper 4:00 - 7:00. Santa will arrive at 6:30 with gifts.
- Gift wrapping, Wednesday Dec. 18, 7:00 - 9:00 (The town hall will be opened to anyone who would like to bring gifts and supplies and wrap their gifts at the town hall - away from family and kids, and using the big tables.)
- End of Year Board Meeting Monday, Dec. 30, 6:30 p.m.
To be followed by Public Hearing on Grievance Day date change
To be followed by Public Hearing on Adelpia contract
- Building Committee Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Town of Franklin's Veterans' Honor Roll

Betty Wilson asked for permission from the town board to update the Veterans' Honor Roll on the wall in the Franklin Town Hall. She would like to focus on veterans of Vietnam and Korean conflicts. Currently on the wall in the town hall are names of residents who served in the armed services during World War II.

"I have no idea how many names there will be," Wilson said. The board suggested that space for the memorial should be considered by the Building Use Committee as they research space

needs for a new town hall.

Betty Wilson was appointed as coordinator of the project. People with names for the memorial should call her at 891-3626, stop by to see her at Gene's Grocery, or leave a message for her at the town hall.

She is looking for veterans who lived in the Town of Franklin at the time they either enlisted or were drafted into armed services and who served overseas in active duty during the Korean War and Vietnam War years. ❖

Welcome Pastor Drake and Family

On Friday, December 13, the congregation of the Church of the Nazarene celebrated the installation of their new pastor, David Drake. Pastor Drake replaces Betty Jean Goodwin, who moved with her family in September for a position at the Nazarene College in Boston.

The Drake family came to the Vermontville from North Tonawanda, New

York, near Buffalo, so they are used to lots of snow. Pastor Drake's wife, Kathryn, is busy with getting moved in and getting the kids – Kelly, David, Deonne, Robbie, Daniel, and Sarah – settled in and registering them in school in Saranac Lake and Bloomingdale.

We welcome Pastor Drake and his family into our community. ❖

Replacement for Ames Needed in Saranac Lake

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can afford to pay. Hopefully, before Christmas, I'll make the 80-mile round trip to Plattsburgh to find shoes for the grandchildren, jeans, lingerie, fish tank filters, sparkling flavored beverages, yarn, yard goods, craft materials, etc.

My conclusion is that we every-day residents in the tri-lakes area need a department store once again in Saranac Lake. What is your input in this situa-

tion? Everyone I have talked to seems to voice the same sentiment as I do.

Let us support the groups who are working to remedy this need in our area. Please voice your opinion to our town officials whether it be "Yes!" or "No!"

In the meantime, we'll be ready for Christmas on December 25. My sincere wishes to all people in the Town of Franklin are: Holiday Happiness, Peace, and Good Health! ❖

Board Studying Highway Issues

During the question and comment session at the December Town Board Meeting, Glenn Swinyer addressed the board to find out if any action had been taken on concerns he has about the town highway department that he'd brought to the board's attention. In March of this year, Swinyer wrote to the board with several issues. The letter was turned over to Gene Goff and Walt Kretser, councilmen who form the committee to oversee the town highway department.

Goff reassured Swinyer that the issues are being pursued. "We've met several

times about it, with the board, and with the highway superintendent," Goff said. "We identified three issues. With the authorization from the board last month, I spent many hours compiling a lot of information." Because of the nature of the complaints, the board discussions were held in executive session. "The board will determine what necessary steps will be taken to rectify the problems."

Swinyer then brought two new complaints against the highway department for the town board to investigate. ❖

Building Plans: What's It Going to Cost?

(Continued from page 1)

committee that whatever they come up with, the final decision will be made in the voting booth. What are town residents are willing to support?

"We need to give them options," he advised. "And I think a bottom line will be: What is it going to cost?"

In the 1980's a building planning committee had been formed and they recommended a capital fund be started. Since then, the town has put aside \$81,000 with another \$10,000 to be added next year.

Other avenues of funding are being explored. Karl had invited Mike Canty to the meeting for his advice. Canty has spent many hours on behalf of the committee to study what funds in grants and loans might be available.

"Actually," Canty said, "there's just about nothing out there for a new building." What he recommended instead is that the committee divide up the work into separate projects. "There are funds out there for senior citizens, youth, handicapped access, historical preservation, libraries."

Then, Town Historian Teresa Eshelman surprised everyone by pointing out that selling the town hall, with the hope that it would be used for a business, would give the town money to build a new town hall.

Janet Ordway agreed. "I've talked to people who say, 'Get rid of that old town hall, we need a new building'," she said.

Whatever conclusions the committee will come up with, member Roger Symonds reminded them, "Keep in mind the committee will report to the board. It will be the board who will present options to the public."

Committee members are Frank Karl, Janet Ordway, Walt Kretser, Jean Baltzly, and Roger Symonds. Your opinions on the subject can be directed to one of them or to a town board member.

The next building committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. ❖

Highway Superintendent's Report

by Donald Vorrath

This month's report is different from the previous eleven. It will not be a year-end synopsis of your highway department, nor a list of accomplishments (of which there have been many), but to point out why we were able to do all that we did in 2002. It's all about personnel.

The Town of Franklin is fortunate to have a highway department staff with the experience and expertise that is invaluable. Not everyone can do all the same jobs equally well, but as a



group their strengths far outweigh their weaknesses.

Yes, there are differences from time to time, but when one looks at the "big picture," your highway department personnel are an asset that has taken many years to accrue.

And just as a man is known by the company he keeps, a company (in this case, a town) is known by the men it keeps.

And, finally, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ❖

Safe Winter Driving

The Town Highway Department's main responsibility is to keep our roads safe. While a lot of work gets done in spring, summer, and fall, it's the work they do throughout the winter that most people see as affecting their lives.

Winter driving can be hazardous. Many mornings the snowplow drivers are called out as early 3:00 a.m. to open the roads for school busses and early morning drivers. As snow continues throughout the day, the plows meet up with more and more traffic on the roads.

The town plow drivers have excellent safety records. Highway Superintendent Donald Vorrath asks everyone to share responsibility to keep the roads safe.

One issue is the problem of children playing on the snow banks. Parents should know that with the blades down and snow flying off the slusher, the drivers often are not even able to see the children on the snow banks, let alone be able to maneuver or stop should a child be endangered. Parents are asked to please teach children to stay away from the road and snow banks when the plows are coming down the road.

As a car approaches an on-coming plow truck on the town's narrow roads, Vorrath asks that drivers pull over to the right as far as they safely can. Consider slowing down. The plows can go only so far to their right (can you say "mailboxes"?), and everyone is safer if car drivers allow the trucks the road space they need.

Vorrath also reminds car owners that the snow and sand flying from the plow blades can damage vehicles parked too close to the road – please pull your cars back.

Try to imagine the road from the plow driver's perspective. These 30-ton vehicles don't have the maneuverability of a car. On some sections of town roads, the plow and slusher do take more than their "share" of the road. If it helps, keep in mind that the plows are out there to clear and sand the roads for you. ❖

Shawn Rowe Recovering from Heroic Rescue

College students are finishing up their fall semester and grades soon will be in the mail. One student already knows he will be getting one "incomplete". With good reason.

Shawn Rowe, a junior at St. Lawrence, isn't the kind of student to shrug off schoolwork, but his grade is for a sports-related education class requiring lifting weights, and he just can't do it. Yet. He's still waiting for injured back muscles to heal from his heroic deed on October 5.

As Rowe and two friends, Clementine Bitik and Zack Remington, were returning to their dorms that evening, high winds from Hurricane Lily's storm blew a twenty-five foot oak tree onto them.

Remington crawled out. When Bitik didn't appear, Rowe crawled under power lines and branches to find her unconscious, trapped by the tree. When he realized that there was no way he could lift the two-foot trunk, Shawn crawled under the tree and lifted it with his back. Shawn and Remington got Bitik out from under the weight and she regained consciousness.

At the hospital, they learned that in

addition to a concussion Bitik broke her collarbone and several vertebrae.

Rowe was treated as well. According to mom, Mary Jo Rowe, "The doctor told us Shawn lifted more than he should have been able to." Even with adrenaline, the feat was more than someone in the best of shape should ever have been able to do.

"He'd been working out in the weight room with his upper body," Mary Jo said. "Even though he injured himself, the doctor said he injured himself right, because he used his whole back and not one spot."

Nevertheless, Shawn did pull all his back muscles, and he's been told it will take time before his back will be completely healed.

Shawn, the son Roger and Mary Jo, is studying fine arts and education and plans to be a teacher.

Shawn's heroic deed was reported in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, and the St. Lawrence newspaper called him a "saint".

Those who know Shawn aren't surprised that he would give it his all and more. That's just the way Shawn is. ❖

E-911 Field Work Almost Done

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Matching properties on the maps to the questionnaires is critical to the success of the emergency system. The information is put into the E-911 database that a dispatcher will rely on to send out a response vehicle in an emergency.

As of December, sixty-five percent of Town of Franklin residents responded to the mailing.

"Accuracy depends upon the individuals' responses," Brown said. He and Work are waiting for more questionnaires to be returned. "When the response percentage is down, we have to use other means to determine the information. It's time consuming and the information not as accurate."

The team also is working on conflicting road names. Three town roads are known by two names, and a decision among residents on the roads will have to be made to settle on an official name: Alder Brook Road vs. Alder Brook Park Road; Roseman Lane vs. Rosylyn Lane, and Bass Pond Road vs. Bass Lake Road.

Residents who live on the roads will be canvassed for their preference. More than fifty percent of the owners must agree on the name to be used. If there is no agreement, the town board may be asked to get involved in making a final decision.

Another issue will be the naming of

private drives with more than three residences. Seven Town of Franklin private roads are unnamed.

"We want to make residents on those private roads aware that we need to have a name on the road so we have good addresses in an emergency," Brown said.

Even with the road names to be worked out and the unanswered questionnaires, Brown estimates that their phase of the project, new addresses, will be completed in January 2003.

After that, information will be fed into a database for the communications center, which is planned to be in Malone. Calls to E-911 will be answered by a dispatcher there who will use information Work and Brown put into the database.

When asked about reported problems in Malone, Brown said, "It really has nothing to do with our part of it. The controversy is over where the communications center will be in Malone. It won't hold up our part here."

A last word from Richard Brown?

"One thing, I would like to thank the people for their cooperation on the questionnaires. Encourage people who have not yet sent them back to do so: It takes just a few minutes to fill out the thing and put it into the self-addressed envelope."

Residents who lost their questionnaires, or who may not have gotten the mailing, can call the Office of Emergency Services in Malone at 483-8584. ❖

Onchiota History Author Winner of Prestigious Awards

Retired Army Col. David Fitz-Enz, hadn't planned a second career as a writer when he and his wife, Carol, retired to Onchiota in 1993. Fitz-Enz, who was a paratrooper and aviator, served in Vietnam as an army combat photographer doing documentaries for the National Archives.

As it turned out, Fitz-Enz not only is a writer, but he has recently been honored with two prestigious awards for his two historical books, "Why a Soldier: A Signal Corpsman's Tour from Vietnam to the Moscow Hot Line" and "The Final Invasion: Plattsburgh, the War of 1812's Most Decisive Battle."

In June, Fitz-Enz was awarded the Distinguished Writing Award from the Army Historical Foundation of Washington, D.C., and in October he was awarded by the Knights Templar with the Military Order of St. Louis for his military research.

He told the Adirondack Daily News, "Having only written two books, I'm kind of overwhelmed."

Fitz-Enz became a writer after making a film for PBS. "People asked for my memoirs from Vietnam," he said. "The book took two years to write and three and a half to get published." To date the book has sold over 20,000 copies and still is selling well.

In 1999, he wrote and produced a PBS TV film on the Battle of Plattsburgh. "My wife and I had done a tremendous amount of research on the battle, here and in Canada," he said. "When the project was done, my co-workers said I ought to write a book." From that came the book on the War of 1812.

Fitz-Enz recently was in England to lecture at the International Napoleonic Fair in London on the War of 1812.

The Town of Franklin was honored to have Col. and Mrs. Fitz-Enz attend their December 9 meeting, at which he presented the town with signed copies of his two books.

Fitz-Enz recently finished a murder mystery, "Root of Evil", and a novel. He also has a contract to write a book on the USS Constitution, Old Ironsides. ❖

Private Roads in Need Names

Richard Brown and Donald Work, who make up the Project Team for the Franklin County Office of Emergency Services 911 Numbering Project, are asking that residents on unnamed private roads with more than three residences or businesses to take the necessary steps to name their roads. "We encourage residents on those roads and drives to name them so we can have good addresses in an emergency," Brown said.

Forms and rules and regulations for naming roads can be picked up at the Franklin Town Hall. Residents also can call the town hall at 891-2189.

Private roads that Brown and Work have recommended to be named are:

- On Fletcher Farm Road (Williams, Farmer, Lindsay)
- "North Branch Road" (Grupe, Williams, Camp Onchi, Pinto, Morrissey, Sofranko, Semour)
- Off Meenagha Lodge Road (Northrop, Tennant, Nadler, Camp [formerly Masters], Callanan, Pace)
- Off Meenagha Lodge Road (Little, Skutnik, Silber, Mitchell)
- Off Kushawua-Mud Pond Road (Grosse, Flynn, Boyington, Mundy, Gaffney)
- Off Alder Brook park Road (Kramer, Wing, Hemick)
- At Inman (Pope, Staves, Bayne, Williams, Daniels, Bechard, Bruce, Kipp)

THE EVIL TAX COLLECTOR . . . *returns*

By popular request—probably to take the sting out of paying taxes—we are reprinting Lauren’s famous Evil Tax Collector article.

by Lauren LeFebvre

As Tax Collector for the Town of Franklin for the past four (now five) years, I have the pleasure of following in the footsteps of the most hated people in the Bible. In those days tax collectors ranked right up there with murderers and thieves. Tax collectors had a lot more power then. A tax collector was required to collect the amount declared due by the King but could also impose any surcharge over and above the amount due and keep it for himself. That’s why, 2000 years later, we still can’t live it down.

In today’s world a tax collector is what I like to call a “glorified book-keeper”. Generally, people think I had a major role in the creation of their tax bill. Not even close.

The only part of your bill I had a hand in is that little section on the top that states where to send payments to and what my office hours will be.

Gee, Lauren, how does that bill get to me?

Well, fellow resident, I’m glad you asked! I don’t know all the ins and outs but I’ll do my best. Your property is assessed and given a value by the Town of Franklin’s appointed assessor, Doug Tichenor. He compiles the information into a “Tentative Assessment Roll” and submits it to the town clerk and places a Public Notice in the newspaper stating that the Town of Franklin Tentative Assessment Roll has been prepared and is available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

It is at this point, early May, that a property owner should inspect his/her assessment. This amount is what your taxes will be based on for the upcoming tax cycle (school and property) If you feel the assessed value is incorrect this is the time to contact the assessor.

Mr. Tichenor then submits this information to the Office of Real Property in Franklin County. This is done every year in July in order allow Real Property to prepare school tax bills.

Remember, as Town of Franklin Tax Collector, I have nothing to do with School Tax bills except for one thing, which will become clear soon.

When school tax collection is complete, all unpaid school tax bills are returned to the Franklin County Treasurer. The Treasurer’s Office informs the Franklin County Office of Real Property of all unpaid school taxes in the Town of Franklin. Around this time I am mailed a form by Real Property asking what I want printed on the bills regarding mailing address and office hours.

In late December, the Franklin County Office of Real Property prints your Franklin County and Town of Franklin tax bill. If you have unpaid school taxes, you will see this on your Town of Franklin tax bill as a “School Tax Relevy”. (See, that’s how I have a little something to do with school taxes).

Amazing how all this stuff happens without me and the only names on your tax bill are mine and yours, right?

Bored yet? Hang on, this is where I come into the picture. One day, right in the middle of Christmas and New Years my phone rings! The Franklin County Real Property Office informs me that the bills have been printed and the warrant (my permission to collect taxes) has been signed by the County Legislature . . . IT’S SHOW TIME!

I drive to Malone to get 2000 (give or take a few) bills, the warrant, and the tax roll. I then spend the next two days stuffing bills into envelopes. I’ve made a few changes in the past four years, though. I now have the bills professionally folded. That saves a huge amount of time. For the next step, my daughters are now old enough to help prepare the bills for mailing. One seals, one stamps. This also saves a huge amount of time.

Now I wait for the money to start rollin’ in. During January, I am at the Town Hall in Vermontville Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. By law a tax collector must have three eight-hour business days a week in January.

The law also requires all payments received to be deposited into the bank within 24 hours of receipt or returned to the property owner. When I receive a post dated check I am left with two options: deposit it or send back to you. I’ll leave that with you to ponder.

Once a week I wipe out the bank account and turn all funds collected that week over to the Town of Franklin Supervisor. The amount received by the

Town of Franklin is stated in the Warrant.

When the Town receives all the money it is due, I then begin to remit the amount due to Franklin County to the Franklin County Treasurer. I’m getting ahead of myself, though.

In February, I go back to my regular office hours of Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. It is usually around the middle of this month that all taxes due to the Town of Franklin Supervisor have been paid and I start sending money to the Franklin County Treasurer on a weekly basis.

In April, late notices are sent out to all residents who have not yet paid their tax bill. There are usually around 200.

At midnight on May 31, I am no longer authorized to accept tax payments, although I can accept payments post-marked May 31. All unpaid taxes are returned to the Franklin County Treasurer.

In early June, I report to the Treasurer’s Office with my books balanced and a smile on my face. Not really, more like my knees knockin’ and my heart poundin’. The paid and unpaid taxes are balanced against the warrant and if that equals out, I’m free to go.

Boy, you really don’t do much at all, Lauren!

Hey, wait a minute! I do a lot. Just not what most people think I do. I’ve learned what I have so far from the school of hard knocks. The long and short of it all is this: If you need to know how much your tax bill is, whether a tax bill has been paid, or if you need copies of bills or receipts, you want the tax collector. Everything else, well, I can point you in the right direction or give you a “form for that” but that’s about it. I can answer questions, though. Give me a call or stop by any time.

One more thing: Seems crazy, but please don’t assume that after you have built your home on that vacant piece of property you purchased a few years ago that your tax bill will reflect a new mailing address because you’re now living there. It won’t. You have to change the billing address; otherwise it will still be sent to the address you were at when you filed the deed with Franklin County. I can’t change your billing address, but I can give you a form for that!❖