



Town of Franklin July 2002 Newsletter

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July 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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TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

Regular town board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Franklin Town Hall. The meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

The board will hold a workshop meeting Monday July 22, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, August 12, 2002

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. ❖

Study Planned for Future of Town Hall

The Franklin Town Board held a workshop meeting in June to address the future of the Franklin Town Hall in Vermontville. An immediate concern to address is the peeling paint on the siding. The long-term concern is whether or not the space in the town hall is sufficient to serve both as the town offices and as a community center.

In 2001, the Franklin Town Board, under Town Supervisor Mary Fredenburg, formed a citizens committee to consider improving the town hall, expanding it, or constructing a new building at the town park. After their report to the board, the committee recommended that next step was to begin feasibility studies on the different possibilities. However, antici-

pated outside funding did not come through, and the committee disbanded.

At the June 17 meeting, Roger Symonds, who served on that committee, brought to the current board a summary of their findings and his personal thoughts, and urged that the committee's work be picked up and continued.

"We need to move into the new century, to consider today's needs, and also to look into the future," Symonds told the board. "The committee did a lot of good work."

The committee concluded that there is an urgent need for new or expanded space. Town offices have taken up space in the Franklin Town Hall's main room. In addition, there is a critical need for appropriate

and safe storage of town records. And as the only location in town to hold meetings, elections, court, jury trials, and events, the town hall's allowable occupancy of 60 persons is barely adequate.

One possibility, a new facility at the town park, could serve as a recreation center, a town hall, or both. An architect or engineer could insure that the design would meet all the defined needs, be easily accessible, and meet building, safety, and handicap codes.

On the other hand, Symonds recognizes that there would be a lot of support to keeping the town hall.

"There is sentiment in keeping this old building," he told the board. "A lot of us have

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July 4th Town Family Picnic Busy and Fun!

by Lauren LeFebvre

First and foremost I have to say thank you to all those who celebrated July 4th at the Town of Franklin's Old Fashioned Celebration. The weather was probably the best we've had on July 4th in quite a few years. On behalf of the rest of the committee, Janet Goff, Kathy Fadden, Mary Ellen Keith, Norma Longo and Miriam Lawrence, thank you for your support.

As July 4th approached we started to freak out a little and began doubting you would show up. Optimists that we are, we carried on and carried through with our plans. And lo and behold, there you were! Thanks so much.

Now for those sorry souls who had better things to do that day—HA!—here's what you missed.

The results of the games and competitions:

MOST PATRIOTIC ART-WORK--Amber Carpenter. Amber's entry is on display through the summer at the Franklin Town Hall.

MEN OF THE TOWN CHILI COOK-OFF--Jeff LeFebvre. Sorry, this entry was eaten that day. Somebody better dethrone him next year. He's getting hard to live with—that blue ribbon went right to his head.

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Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith was honored as the 2002 Town of Franklin Citizen of the Year at the July 4th Picnic.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Second Town Tuesday to be July 16

The next Town Tuesday will be held Tuesday, July 16, 2002, from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Town Hall. The event will be sponsored by the Big C Youth Community Service group and will feature Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes.

Make your donation of any amount. They will provide the ice cream and all the toppings.

The monthly Town Tuesdays are sponsored by the various groups and committees serving our community to serve as a fundraiser and as a town get-together opportunity. ❖



Norma Longo served strawberry-rhubarb pie, and Krista Tuthill put the whipped cream on the strawberry shortcake at the June Strawberry Town Tuesday.

FOOD PANTRY

The St. Paul Food Pantry volunteers are working as hard as ever to keep up stock for any families in need in the Town of St. Armand and in the Town of Franklin.

In addition to the physical work of unloading trucks and stocking shelves, the pantry workers have to work constantly to build up resources and funds. Mary Ellen Keith reported that the State of New York's new budget left amount of dollars for 2002 at the same level as 2001. Unfortunately, there are many more food pantries than before to share the money, so the St. Paul Pantry will need to work harder again to make up the difference.

Your help is needed more than ever: Leave your cans and bottles in the pantry's drop box by the building next to the Bloomingdale Post Office, or give a donation to help out. The pantry workers make the most of every resource to be able to be sure that anyone in need is not left without help. Your contribution makes a difference!

The monthly pantry distribution sometimes varies, but usually is held the Thursday after each board meeting. The dates are advertised in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, are posted at the town hall, and are announced at board meetings. ❖

Pet Show Wednesday, July 24

All pets, all pet owners are invited Wednesday, July 24, to the Town of Franklin Pet Show. The event will take place at the pavilion at the Kate Mt. Park from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Pet owners who remember the last Pet Show a few years ago may recall Fred, the singing hound owned by the Smalleys, and the litter of baby kittens brought by Jessica Manny from the animal shelter. The biggest pet was the goat brought by Janet Collier, and best behaved was, believe it or not, Jake Tendler's favorite chicken. No pet could match the poise of Gene and Ellen Goff's well trained dogs.

The pet parade featured a show of several pets' favorite tricks.

Pet owners of all ages and pets of all types are welcome. Although there will be monitors on hand to help with handling pets, owners are asked to bring and use leashes and otherwise take care for the safety of all the participants.

Judges will be giving out awards in many categories. Your pet is the best! Put a bow on his collar and come join the fun.

For any questions, or if you would enjoy helping out as a monitor or a judge, call Lorrie Rumble at 891-3133 or Sara Besaw at 891-5087. ❖

55 Alive Driving Course

The Town of Franklin Senior Citizens Club plans to offer the 55-Alive Safe Driving Course at the Franklin Town Hall in Vermontville on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 30 and 31, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Students must attend both sessions in full and pay a \$10 fee by check made to AARP. They are also requested to bring their current driver's license and a pen.

This refresher course is designed to

upgrade driving skills for drivers who are 50 years and over. Upon completion of both sessions, a certificate is awarded which is honored by all automobile insurance companies in New York State for a small discount on some part of the automobile insurance premium.

To register for the course, people may call Fran Oliver at 891-0447 or Margaret Turnbull at 891-2656. ❖

Scouts Update

On a Saturday morning in June in the driving rain, Scouts David Grant and Ted Buchanan were out helping Clayton Smalley put up directional signs throughout the town. The signs were the result of Smalley's Eagle Scout project.

After field work interviewing town residents, Smalley identified which intersections would best be served by signs pointing the way to recreational sites and other often-requested destinations.

Smalley's project included designing the signs, researching the materials for them, and getting them made, as well as finding funding for the entire production.

As soon as the road work is done, the last of the signs go in to finish the project.

Memorial Scoreboard To Be Up Soon

by Janet Goff

The Curtis Tyler Memorial Scoreboard project is complete!! We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their sponsorship and donations for the scoreboard: Gene's Grocery, R&L Towing and Repair, Sandy Hayes Realty, Francis Martin, and Carmen and Norma Longo. Look for the Curtis Tyler Scoreboard sometime in August!

We have the funds to put the fence around the basketball court! We will be getting the fence from Freedom Fence Co., located in Plattsburgh. Now we just have to nail down a time and date with them. We hope to have this project completed before the snow flies!!

The Committee worked hard on a very hot and humid Sunday morning spreading wood chips down on the hiking trail. There is still more work to be done on the trails. We're trying to keep the grass from growing up on the paths, but it is a never-ending battle! If anyone has an idea on how to keep the trails clear from this problem, please let us know!

Our next project will be getting a home run fence up at the upper field. Other project ideas are a new backstop for the little league field and a batting cage.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 20, at 10:00 a.m. Note the time change.

Remember this: Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes . . . ❖

Summer Youth Program Under Way

The Town of Franklin's summer season at Kate Mt. Park began on Monday, July 8, as 25 kids came to the park for a day of play.

Every year, the Town of Franklin provides two adult monitors from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. They will be on hand to insure the safety of youngsters at the playground and will have equipment and materials for the kids to use.

The town also will have available to the kids nutritional snacks and bottled water at lunchtime.

Bill Wilson, park director, and Meghan Arnold, assistant director, will be on hand to keep an eye on the kids. For years the town provided monitored play at the town hall, but after the pavilion was built and playground equipment put in, Wilson moved to the park where kids have more opportunities for play and more room for games.

All kids are invited to play at the park. There is no registration or sign up for the supervised play hours. The program will run until August 16.❖

Graduations

Keith Brown

Keith Brown graduated Saturday, June 13, 2002, from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Law Enforcement Academy. The Academy is part of the State University of New York at Oswego.

Brown previously graduated from North Country Community College and had been a Saranac Lake police officer before being recruited by the DEC.

After a week's vacation at home, Brown will report to his first assignment as a DEC officer in Suffolk County at Stony Brook in Long Island. According to his mom, Keith hopes someday to be assigned to the North Country.

Keith's parents Dot and Keith Brown.

John St. Marie

Congratulations to John St. Marie who graduated July 9, 2002, from the New York State Police Academy in Albany.

The graduation ceremonies, which were held at the Empire State Plaza, featured the West Point Military Band, and was attended by Lt. Governor Mary O. Donohue.

St. Marie's field training will begin in Tupper Lake with a five-week assignment, and that will follow with another five-weeks in Indian Lake. After that, St. Marie will get his permanent assignment.

St. Marie is the son of Linda St. Marie.❖

Post Office Construction a Little Behind Schedule

It will be awhile yet before the new Vermontville Post Office will be open for business. The construction a little behind schedule and the opening date has been moved from August to a date later into the fall.

The property and building are being developed by Baer Realty of Troy, New York, and will be leased to the United States Postal Service.

According to Kenneth Baer, who is in charge of the project, "It's not moving as fast as we wanted. All the subcontractors are busy. The work didn't start until winter, and the heavy spring rains have put a lot of the subcontractors behind."



In general, the work is going fine; the poured concrete floor is in. Baer is currently looking for a site contractor to pave the driveway and parking area. "We try to hire locally and are hoping to find someone soon."

Baer Realty specializes in developing post offices. In addition to two in Plattsburgh, they also own post offices in Morrisonville, West Chazy, and Bolton Landing. The large one in Sherburne, Vermont, also belongs to Baer.

The Vermontville Post Office temporarily is housed in a trailer next to Gene's Grocery.❖

Board Tables PWC Issue

In May, the Loon Lake Homeowners Association requested that the Franklin Town Board consider enacting a law to prohibit personal watercraft (PWCs) on Loon Lake. The board responded by forming a committee to study their request, and Walter Kretser, who headed the committee, reported the findings to the board at the July 8, 2002, regular board meeting.

Basing the report on safety, property value, environmental issues, and the support of the ban among the residents of Loon Lake, the committee recommended that the board not act on the request. After discussion from the floor both for and against the law, the board agreed.

The actual support of shore owners for the ban has been unclear. The town board received 54 letters in support of the ban, all but two of them versions of the same form letter. Other letters against the ban also were received. While the LLHA claims that their members support the ban, the support may possibly be as low as 35 percent among all of the shore owners.

In a July weekend afternoon visit to the lake, there was only one other craft on the lake – a canoe – and a loon with a chick swam by. There were three PWCs, Jet Skis, visible on shore. In an interview, one homeowner said there never has been more than two Jet Skis out at a time, and that they're out for only an hour or so. There is no documentation of past problems with Jet Skis, and, because there

is no public access to the lake, it is not likely that non-shore owner PWC users would ever become a problem.

There also was no evidence of loss of lakeshore property values because of PWCs.

In his report, Kretser expressed concern about the difficulty of enforcement of such a law. Department of Environmental Conservation's Bill Crane said that the DEC and the state police would not be likely to respond to a PWC complaint on a "private" lake, which is what Loon Lake is considered. The town would have to consider creating a position of town constable or contract with someone to police the lake. However, that person, too, will not have access to the lake.

As far as the safety factor is concerned, New York State is drafting a bill to require all 16- to 27-year-old PWC users to take safety training before they can use the craft. Also, the old 2-stroke motors are no more polluting than motorboat motors, and the new 4-stroke models are even more efficient. Because the craft are light, there is very little wake. Erosion on the lakeshore would be the result of the riders being intentionally too close to the shore, but not from normal use. There were no signs of unusual erosion on the shore.

With no documentation to support the argument for the ban, the board was unanimous in their vote. They agreed to consider reopening the issue if there is evidence of problems in the future. ❖

Teen Camp Plans Dropped

The Aspen Education Group has canceled their plans to develop a wilderness-workshop camp in Onchiota. In a June 20, 2002, letter to Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith, Cindy Garso, of North Woods Engineering in Saranac Lake, explained that the reasons for their withdrawal were the costs of construction in the North Country, the short construction season, and state regulatory requirements.

At a meeting at Paul Smith's College library on April 11, 2002, the Aspen Group announced their plans to develop 640 acres on Roakdale Road, next to the Fadden Indian Museum, as a camp to hold wilderness programs for troubled teens. They run 43 similar programs throughout the northwest and the south, and had decided Onchiota was an ideal location for their first northeast location. They had planned to run the camp year round and to serve approximately 200 kids in their first full year of operation.

Aspen Group contracted with North Woods Engineering to help them with the development of the site.

"I was surprised as anyone" that they pulled out, Garso said. She worked on their behalf with the different New York State agencies that would have been involved in the project: the Adirondack Park Agency, the Department of Health, and the Department of Environmental Conservation. "We got through the whole process. The APA and the DOH were actually very supportive."

The Aspen Group representatives told

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Committee to Study Town Hall Future

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lived here a long time, and this building is a landmark and reference point. People went to school here; a lot of public business has been conducted in this building. This building is the Town of Franklin for a lot of people."

The current town hall was built as a school 1912. The kitchen addition came in 1950. Renovations to the building were done in 1971 after the town took over the building as a town hall.

An addition onto the town hall to accommodate all of the town's requirements would have to include expanded parking

space and possibly the loss of the playground.

As Buildings and Grounds Supervisor for the Saranac Lake Central School District, Symonds has had years of experience in building maintenance and in planning and executing public building projects. He is familiar with the importance of getting public support for capital projects.

"I would like to see the board get out in front here," he concluded. "The planning process should include people with expertise to be sure that that it is done properly. You need a well thought out

plan that clearly demonstrates what you are trying to accomplish." Symonds recommended that the board plan to have public hearings throughout the process.

The board agreed to reactivate the committee, but to limit its size to five members instead of the original eight. Members will be Symonds, Councilwoman Janet Goff and Jean Baltzly, who served on the original board, and Councilman Walter Kretser and Frank Karl.

Their first order of business will be to advertise in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise for bids for painting the town hall. Specs are available at the town hall. ❖

Highway Superintendent's Report

The following is Highway Superintendent Donald Vorrath's report to the Franklin Town Board at the July 8, 2002, regular board meeting.

- Prep work is complete on Plank Road. Shoulders need some grading – scheduled after paving when grader is available.
- County is behind approximately one week with paving schedule. Starting July 9 with Town of Harrietstown, then Franklin, and finish with Brighton.
- Started to remove sand and ditching at Cold Brook Road and Fletcher Farm Road intersection. Need approximately three more days.
- Ford tractor was repaired by Giroux Brothers and returned to the shed. Some raking was done at Kushaqua and mower is now installed to start grass cutting.
- Deputy Superintendent Canty returned from two weeks of National Guard Active Training on June 24, 2002.
- Highway employees installed two driveway culverts on Swinyer Road.
- Highway employees assisted Custodian Russ Robertson in taking tables and chairs to Kate Mt. Park for July 4 celebration.
- Besides the normal maintenance, other essential maintenance included: Cutting blades on brush hog mower; exhaust and air canisters (brakes) on 98 International; bucket blade on loader; door latch on loader; hydraulic line and hoe teeth on backhoe; radio (2-way) installed in '03 International.
- The 2003 International delivered June 27, 2002.
- Washout repaired on Goldsmith Road.

- Additional trees downed – cut and removed.
- Deputy Superintendent Canty working on colored markings on plastic-coated town map of highway assets to include signs, culverts, types, etc.
- Grader rental pushed back to around beginning of August due to paving schedules.
- Request board approval to attend NYS Association of Town Highway Superintendents Annual Conference and Meeting Sept. 24 – 27, 2002, at Kutsher's, Monticello, NY.

The Highway Department's summer hours are Monday through Thursday, 6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This 26-week schedule involves the major work for our highway system.

Besides the regular maintenance of equipment along with the unexpected breakdowns, this workload includes, but is not limited to: ditching; culvert replacement; culverts to be cleaned and/or flushed; patching, both hot and cold; brush and tree cutting and chipping; paving approximately two miles of road surface; road-side mowing that now includes 4.5 acres of the capped Onchiota landfill; sign replacement; brooming of winter sand and debris; hauling of sand to residents who can make use of it; reciprocal help to other towns who, in turn, help us, especially during paving; obtaining the necessary permits from DEC, APA, and UFPO before we dig, ditch, or cut; and not to mention the washouts, downed trees, etc.

With the above in mind, the highway employees are allowed to use their earned time only during this period, which puts a strain on schedules and what needs to be done. ❖

Camp Plans Canceled

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her, however, that their projects in other states never before had been under any regulatory jurisdiction. She also felt that they had not accounted for the additional construction costs in time and materials necessary for the long and cold Adirondack winters. The short Adirondack building season meant they would not meet their deadline to be up and running.

When Aspen Group announced their plans last April, residents of the Town of Franklin expressed mixed feelings about having the camp in town but for the most part were supportive. As planned, the camp would have had little impact on the day-to-day life of Onchiota residents, and Aspen Group had anticipated hiring up to sixty staff, some of whom would have been hired locally.

For now, Aspen Group will look for another location somewhere in the northeast. Garso says she wishes them well, adding, "I think they'll find working with any state in the northeast similar to their experience here. I wish they would have stuck it out here." ❖

Board Approves First Two HUD Projects

The first two HUD projects have been given approval by the Franklin Town Board to go ahead with construction. Scott Campbell, the housing rehabilitation specialist from Friends of the North Country, brought the two projects to the board at the July regular board meeting.

The 2001 HUD/GOSC program is the Town of Franklin's third HUD grant since 1990. All of them have been won and distributed with the help of the Friends of the North Country of Keeseville.

The grants are now called HUD/GOSC because the state Governor's Office for Small Cities now administers the program. Campbell explained to the board that the reason the projects are coming up late into the building season is because of the new requirements in the approval process of the applications and monitoring paperwork mandated by the state. Instead of approving applications as they come in, all applications had to be received and evaluated on a "worse con-

dition, greatest need" basis. The state has also requires that a thorough study of lead paint hazards be done on each project.

The state also is requiring that the State Historic Preservation Office be notified to approve work on all buildings over 50 years old. It always has been a requirement that any project that uses federal or state funds is subject to historical approval, but in the previous HUD grants, it had been done in house by personnel from Friends of the North Country. Now they must have SHPO determine if there is preservation value.

In addition to his work as a rehabilitation specialist for Friends, Campbell is currently its acting director. Ann Rusow Holland, who has been director of Friends of the North Country since its beginning over 20 years ago, and who has worked with the town since the first grant, has retired. The board is grateful to Holland for the service she provided to the town over the years. ❖



Teresa Eshelman joined the fun. She brought copies of her books on the history of the Town of Franklin.



Tim Besaw really concentrated on his seed spitting as Autumn and Veronica waited for their watermelon slices.



A last-minute run-down of the rules of 3-legged running.



The live music went on all afternoon, with a break for the talent show.



The one chance to see the 2003 truck "brand new." The next day it was scheduled to haul tar.

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MOST PATRIOTIC BABY--No entries, can you believe it?

PIE MAKING THEN EATING CONTEST--1st Matt Goodwin; 2nd Nate Goodwin; 3rd Brian Besaw. Betty Jean and Paul Goodwin really need to start feeding those boys more!

3-LEGGED RACE--1st Brian and Tim Besaw; 2nd Sara Besaw and niece Alex; 3rd Neil and Ray (grandfather and grandson camping at Buck Pond); 4th Liz and Chase (Mary Ellen's daughter and I'm not sure who Chase belongs to); 5th Rebbie Romeo and Harley Stankus; 6th Veronica and Autumn LeFebvre (they never raced; as soon as they were tied they started smacking each other. As a mother I was never more proud.)

POTATO SACK RACE--1st Tim (the jumping bean) Besaw; 2nd Veronica (the casual jumper) LeFebvre; 3rd Alex (who jumped right over her injured aunt to keep on racin'); 4th Chase (very solid form); 5th Autumn (just jumpin' for the fun of it) LeFebvre; 6th Brian (I may have fallen but I'm not gonna be last) Besaw; 7th Neil (I'm on vacation, so I don't care if I'm last); and 8th Sarah (I can't believe everyone just jumped over me) Besaw.

HOG CALLING--1st Leland Schulyer; 2nd Linda Johnson; 3rd Lauren LeFebvre (pretty good since I'm not sure why you would want to call a pig in the first place).

WATERMELON SEED SPITTING--Before we get into this let me say that the duration of this event, which was maybe 15 minutes, was a life-changing experience for me. Never in my life have I witnessed such sportsmanship. Contestants were allowed a warm-up of about two minutes. It was great to watch these athletes prepare themselves for the competition. What concentration! You could see they were barely aware of the gathering crowd. Slowly and one by one, each approached me to register for the event. Fifteen people entered and silently took their places. Seeds were spit and distances were marked. Records were made and broken. Broken, too, were the hearts of many who saw their seed trampled by another's that was projected farther but with just as much desire as their own. In the end there could be but one winner. One who was able to survey his opponents and know he was king of all seed spitters. Distance, that is what mattered. Looking back, if originality, showmanship, and technique were part of the score, the leader board might look quite different. So, here's how it played out. I'm not going to critique any of this. You can form your own conclusions when we put the action shots on the website. (Watch for the pics later this month.) 1st Paul Goodwin at 35 ft.; 2nd Brian Besaw at 25 ft. 10 in.; 3rd Bruce Young at 28 ft. 5 in.; 4th Shir Filler at 23 ft. 6 in.; 5th Matt Goodwin at 23 ft.; 6th Rebbie Romeo at 22 ft. 3 in.; 7th Gene Goff at 22 ft.; 8th Tim Besaw at 19 ft. 7 in.; 9th Veronica LeFebvre at 16 ft. 4 in.; 10th Russell ? at 15 ft. 1 in.; 11th Alex at 10 ft. 5 in.; 12th Neil the vacation guy at 10 ft. 3 in.; 13th Chase at 6 ft. 7 in.; 14th Maryssa Romeo at 5 ft., 1 in.; and 15th Autumn LeFebvre, honorable mention.

So many other things took place that day it's difficult to remember them all. There was laughter and tears. The tears were shed as we took pride in honoring two of the best people the Town of Franklin will ever know. Former players of Curt Tyler, led by Zach Buzzell, declared the newest baseball field at the park now be known as Curtis Tyler Memorial Field. The words "Good game, boys" will live on in the Town of Franklin.

Tears flowed, at least from my eyes, as Mary Ellen Keith was proclaimed Citizen of the Year 2002. I am amazed an entire town can keep a secret. Thanks a lot for that.

To the band, Forrest Fitzsimons, Linda Johnson, and the Jeffs (Goff and LeFebvre), another thank you. You made the event lively and entertaining. I can't forget the talent show. Yes, there are people in the town who are very talented. If you didn't go you don't know who they are or what their talent is. Too bad. To those of you who went and were in the show, thanks, your efforts were very much appreciated.

I know I left out a lot and I probably forgot to thank someone like the Stankus's for surprising us with wagon rides. (See, I will forget some things.) I apologize if I have forgotten to thank anyone. I'm still trying to catch up on conversations I was pulled away from that day! I'll say sorry now, too, if I messed up any family relationships in this article. I'm reminded every day, "You're not from here". So if I said someone is your niece, sister, or aunt, and it turns out they were your cousin, please think of it as an honest mistake. If your name is misspelled well, I have two things to say about that. Would you rather not have made the big time, *the newsletter*? And, as Lauren LeFebvre, I believe I am the queen of the misspelled names. ❖