



Town of Franklin

August 2002 Newsletter

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August 2002

Town of Franklin

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Town Councilmen
Timothy Goff
Walter Kretser
Janet Ordway
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Roger Symonds
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Donald Vorrath
Deputy Highway Supt.
Michael Canty
Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Lauren LeFebvre
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Edward Murphy
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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 are open to the public.

The August workshop meeting will be Monday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, September 9, 2002, at 6:30 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. ❖

Help Sought for Franklin Falls Cemetery Upkeep

Because of its unusual history, the Franklin Falls Cemetery has found itself something of a neglected orphan. The cemetery, high up on a hill off the Franklin Falls Road near the Currier Road, lays half in the Essex County and half in Franklin County. Although there was no formal agreement, for many years the towns of St. Armand and Franklin shared the maintenance of the cemetery. However, over the last several years much of the upkeep hasn't been done. Without regular mowing, brush is beginning to overgrow the grass. The road up the hill to the cemetery has deteriorated, and grave stones are knocked over and some are broken.

Mrs. Helen Arnold asked the Town of Franklin Town Board to help her find a perma-

nent solution for the care of the cemetery. Generations of the Arnold family are buried there.

The cemetery dates back to when there was a community at Franklin Falls, which was founded in 1836 and destroyed by a catastrophic fire in 1852. "When I first moved here in the 1930's, the cemetery had an iron fence with an archway with letters that said, 'Union Cemetery'," Mrs. Arnold said. "After the arch came down, people just started calling it the Franklin Falls Cemetery."

Originally, she said, the Franklin Falls Cemetery was an even older plot up in the woods. "Some of the stones date back to the Revolutionary War era, you know."

That cemetery, too, had been neglected for a long time.

(Continued on page 6)

Sink Hole Road Worries Board

Sometimes a road's name has nothing to do with the road itself. In other cases, the name is an accurate definition.

The stretch of road now known as the Sink Hole Road originally was part of the main road out of Vermontville. An old story in town has it that once upon a time a wagon and two horses veered just off the roadway and disappeared forever into the swamp that comes right up to the low spot in the road.

Rather than deal with the problem, when the state put in Route 3, it redirected the road to avoid the sink hole altogether.

The bog causing the problem goes from the Sink Hole Road to Tyler Road. Even after decades of putting in fill, that low spot continues to sink.

According to Town Highway Superintendent Vorrath, the problem now is exacerbated a dam on private property and beaver dams that back the water right up to the road. The county bridge at the spot also is in danger of eroding away.

For now, the board directed Vorrath to put up reflectors to warn drivers. Vorrath and the board agree that the reflectors, or signs, or boulders on the side of the road will not solve the problem and that a long-term solution needs to be worked out.

(Continued on page 4)

Scout Project Well Under Way

by Bryon Tuthill

I am Bryon Tuthill, and I am a Boy Scout with Troop 1. I am currently a life scout working on my Eagle rank. To do this, I have to do an Eagle project.

My project is to construct a sign for the Union Cemetery in Vermontville. So far, I have gathered materials from Gregory Supply in Ray Brook, Moores in Saranac Lake, Graymont Quarries, Specialty Wood Products in Bloomingdale, Camp Adirondack, and

from other members of the community who have generously donated materials.

I have asked my troop for help, and with them and other members of the community, I can say that we have constructed the stone base for the sign. I am now in the process of trying to obtain other materials.

I expect the project to be done in early September or, at the latest, early October.

I thank the community for the support I have received. ❖

Community Events and Committee Reports

Senior Bazaar Saturday, August 24

The monthly Town Tuesday events are held as fund-raising opportunities for town organizations, and as occasions for town residents to get together and socialize. Although the August get-together isn't on a Tuesday, the Town of Franklin 55+ club is inviting everyone to their Annual Bazaar Saturday, August 24, 2002, at the Town of Franklin Town Hall, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The annual event features crafts, food, fresh vegetables, and a white elephant table. Refreshments will be available, and the club will also be offering raffles and drawings.

Donations that come in from the bazaar are used for the seniors' activities, including their October Annual Dinner and the December Christmas Party. The money also is used for the club members to take a trip every June. Although first chance is given to seniors and club members on their trips, the club opens up extra seats for any Franklin residents who want join them.

The club is accepting donations of items for the white elephant table (except clothing) and food for the refreshments.

The Big C's thank all of those who came to their super make-your-own-ice-cream-sundae Town Tuesday in July. The kids will use their funds to continue to "perform random acts of kindness to help others in our community and the world".

The Town Tuesday event will return to a Tuesday in September when the Franklin Scholarship Committee will host a Back to School Lasagna Dinner on September 16 at the Franklin Town Hall from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. ❖

Vampires and Ghosts and Werewolves, Oh My!

by Lauren LeFebvre

Halloween! Wow, it's my FAVORITE holiday. The "I wanna be" conversation starts in May around my house. This year I have to turn my six year old into "Glinda, the Good Witch of the North" and my ten year old into some kind of "popular, weird person". (I'm no fool; she's just after 6-inch platform shoes.)

I loved taking the girls Trick or Treating when they were toddlers. The look on their faces when they saw another costumed cohort was absolutely priceless. They say cute things like, "Look, there's Batman and his mother getting out of that car!" The look of total astonishment when you make your first stop and a complete stranger to them answers the door and puts candy in their plastic pumpkin! What a shock! My oldest daughter sat right down and started to eat!

I hope everyone has memories like that. It goes by so fast.

Now that my kids are older I feel it's time to experience the other side of Halloween. Shall we say "The Dark Side"? Don't you love to sneak up on your know-it-all middle schoolers and scare um right out of their shoes? No, it's not torture. It's reinforcement to them and you that life can throw some unexpected curve balls and they do still need you.

That being said, the Celebration Committee is planning to have a Haunted House at the Franklin Town Hall on Halloween night from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The first planning meeting will be Tuesday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. Volunteers with enthusiasm, please come. We need people who are good with make-up or creative with lighting, or are imaginative builders, or are just people who want to give this a shot and have fun. (I fit into this category.)

Please come! This is a very labor-intensive undertaking. The committee feels that to pull off a good Haunted House we will need at least 20 volunteers. Now that's commitment!

Hope to see you on the 27th. If you can't make that night but want to help, give me a call. You can still count as one of the 20!

Do me a favor: If you have any idea what a "popular, weird person" is, let me know. I have a feeling I'm going to be hit up to purchase garments that would make Bob Dylan cringe. ❖

RECREATION COMMITTEE REORT

by Janet Ordway

Hi Everyone!

The Recreation Committee has had a busy summer! Our first goal of the summer, the fence around the basketball court, has been completed! The second goal, the Curt Tyler Memorial Scoreboard, is completed and should be up in a few weeks at the field! We are very happy with the outcome of both projects. The rec park is really taking shape!

The committee would like to thank Russ Robertson for his great job in keeping the park looking terrific this summer! He has been very busy mowing and trimming, and the hard work really shows. Thanks, Russ . . .

The committee has ideas for other playground equipment at the park. This is a rundown of just a few ideas we have in mind: bike rack, seesaw, basketball toss up bucket for the little tots. Let us know your thoughts and ideas about what you would like at the park.

The committee wishes to do as much as possible. As everyone knows, for these ideas to take shape it takes funds. One way we raise these funds is from the collection of returnable bottles and cans. So please continue to donate your returnables in the collection box behind the Franklin Town Hall.

Just an FYI about the returnable cans. The tabs are removed from every can and donated to the Ronald MacDonald house.

You may be wondering who does all the hard work of taking the tabs off and returning the cans and bottles to the redemption center. Well, it is a family affair done by Robin, Alan, Taylor, Brittney and Lauren Oliver. Thanks, guys!

Look for future fund-raisers in the fall: bake sale, spaghetti dinner, etc. Any donations are gladly accepted!

The next meeting will be Saturday, September 21, at 10:00 a.m. at the Franklin Town Hall.

Until next time remember: One should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them! ❖

Back to School Thursday, September 5

The local schools are almost ready for students to return for the 2002-2003 school year.

Bloomington School's students will be welcomed back by a new principal, Mr. Pat Hogan. Hogan has deep roots in the Town of Franklin. His Irish and French Canadian ancestors go back many generations. He and his family, wife Kathleen, who is the school nurse at the Saranac Lake High School, and his sons, Matt and Dan, who are seniors at the high school, spend their summers at his family's camp on Keegan Hill on Union Falls Pond. Hogan's great grandfather was Thomas Keegan.

Mr. Hogan started his teaching career at the Bloomington School in 1975. "It's a great school, and I'm very happy to be back here," he said. "I'm looking forward to meeting the students this fall." As a matter of fact, Mr. Hogan came to the Town of Franklin Pet Show to meet kids. Unfortunately, because of a school board meeting that evening he had to leave early.

Bloomington School has scheduled an open house for incoming kindergarteners and their parents for Thursday, August 29, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Open houses will be scheduled for older students after school opens.

The middle school will be open to students for a Locker Day on Wednesday, August 28, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Students can come into the school to find their lockers and test the combinations, and can go through the building to find their classrooms. Homeroom class lists will be posted so kids can see who will be in their first period classes.

High school and middle school students should have received their schedules in the mail by now. Anyone who has not yet gotten his or hers should call the high school at 891-4450, or the middle school at 897-1651. ❖

Record Number of Kids For Summer Program

by Bill Wilson

This summer weather has been outstanding for the recreation program at Kate Mt. Park in Vermontville! Because the days have been so sunny and bright, the children have been especially cheerful.

Under the supervision of park monitors Bill Wilson and Meghan Arnold, an average of 27 to 30 children took part in numerous activities each day. Among the favorites were: Wild Wild West (a search for gold nuggets in the field and

trails before getting caught by robbers), Balloon Babies (creating and caring for a balloon for the night), Home Run Challenge (children vs. Bill and Meghan), Lip



Sync Contest (children sang favorite songs and learned "Stayin' Alive" from Bill), Water Days (a great way for children to cool off and get the activity leaders soaked!) and the many, many sporting activities that took place each day.

The final week of the summer program signals the beginning of the upcoming school year. As always, the summer months always seem to get a bit shorter each year. I believe I speak for all children when I say, "Time flies when you're having fun!" ❖

Pet Show Fun for Pets, Pet Owners, and Judges

On July 14, the Town of Franklin sponsored a pet show at the Kate Mt. Park. Seventeen pet owners signed in their pets in the pavilion and then moved out into the sunshine where Sara Besaw gathered everyone for the show.

Each pet was introduced by its owner to the judges. Of the 17 pets, all but three were dogs. Most of the dogs did a great job of responding to their owners' commands, and most of them performed a trick or two. Samantha Muncil brought her pet rat, Nibbles, and Veronica and Autumn LeFebvre brought their birds, Lemonhead and Moey.

The dogs ranged in size from Mary Jo Rowe's tiny puppy, Kiko, to Rebe and Maryssa Romeo's giant dog, Granite. Tricks included Katie Goodman's dog, Gracie-Lou, with her amazing jumps, and

Blake Neigel's sheltie, Rex, who would stand up on his hind legs for a dog biscuit.

Cassie put on such a good show with her dog, Wishbone, that it was easy to overlook that Wishbone was actually a stuffed animal. There were youngsters, such as Kayla Salls's puppy Zoe, and oldsters, including Timmy Besaw's 13-year-old dog, Ozzie, and Hannah and Meagan Parker's 14-year-old dog, Goober.

Other participants were Keenan Neigel with Bleu, Maggie Nestor with Dayzee; Bryan Besaw with Willow, Helena with Ira, Dan with a very shy Etah, and Trevor with Sparky.

As the judges deliberated, Debbie Crider gave a demonstration on dog training. The group then moved out into

the field where Ken and Joan Kogut needed a lot of space to give a demonstration of the training they do with their retrievers for competitions.

The audience was fascinated and after the demonstration Ken Kogut answered questions about his dogs, and about training pets in general. Crider and the Koguts encouraged the kids to give their pets a lot of attention and to work with them daily to teach them to be well behaved.

Many thanks to Sara Besaw, Deb Crider and the Koguts. Thanks, too, to the volunteers who helped keep order and the judges who coaxed performances out of even the shiest of the dogs: Lisa Nestor, Kathy Neigel, Janet Collier, Shir Filler, George Besaw, Katie Goodwin, Vivian Manny, and Lorrie Rumble. ❖

Concerns Voiced on Town Speed Limits

Speed limits for cars on New York State roads are set by the state. Unless a road is posted otherwise, the legal speed limit is 55 miles per hour. Although a town can start the process to identify a speed zone, it can post the road only with the permission of the state.

Most of the town roads throughout the Town of Franklin are hilly, relatively narrow and winding and don't have painted center lines. As more and more homes are built in the town bringing more driveways, more children, and more traffic, that speed limit has caused concern to residents, and they've brought the issue to the attention of the Franklin Town Board.

Residents on Cold Brook Road have complained of the number of young drivers who drive "like a raceway" down their road. There are driveways on hilltops and at blind corners causing potentially dangerous situations. Town Councilman Walt Kretser noted that without center lines, drivers in the town tend to drive down the center of the roads.

The board recently was asked if a day care could be considered for a "school zone" designation to get cars to slow down. Her concern was that after a long, straight stretch of road, cars are going fast as they round the curve just before the Bunny Patch Day Care home on Fletcher Farm Road.

According to Highway Superintendent Donald Vorrath, speeders are a problem for his work crews. "When we were working on the Fletcher Farm Road, we had 'men working' signs on the road and the large trucks made it evident that men were working there. We still had people speeding by us."

The process to reduce the speed limit on a road is a long one. A local town board first adopts a resolution to lower the speed limit. It gets sent on to the county highway superintendent who then needs to get a resolution passed at the county level. The county then passes the request along to the state. The final decision lies with the State of New York.

Unfortunately, what may seem a necessary speed zone from in town doesn't necessarily look that way from Albany. After the development of Kate Mt. Park, the town requested that the 45-mile-an-hour speed limit be extended up Rt. 3 to the park. The state rejected the request. On August 14 of this year, a truck hit from behind a car turning into the park driven by a mother picking up her daughter from the summer youth program, and her two younger children had to be taken to the hospital. Fortunately, they were in car seats and there were no serious injuries.

The town legally can put up orange signs posting suggested speeds and can post "school bus stop" signs at appropriate places. The town has purchased and put up "children at play" signs to encourage drivers to slow down.

The state requires that studies be made to support requests for lowered speed limits. For now, the town board will make of a list of the roads throughout the town which, in their and in residents' opinions, should be considered for lowered speed limits, and will look into what technicalities the state requires. ❖

Dangerous Situation at Sink Hole Road's Low Spot

(Continued from page 1)

Regarding the water, Vorrath reported that he spoke with the landowner, who agreed to look into tearing out some of the beaver sticks that are adding to the problem. Vorrath believes it may be necessary to work with the landowner for a more long-term solution, such as installing a drain pipe to control the water level.

The board considers the Sink Hole Road a serious safety problem. The ever-sinking low spot may require an

engineering study to determine whether or not the problem is solvable. Because of the water, the Adirondack Park Agency and the New York State Department of Conservation may have to be involved. Options include dead-ending the road on both sides of the low section, or closing the road altogether.

Until a solution is found, drivers will need to take care and give heed to the reflectors. And to remember that old wagon and horses that disappeared forever.

Highway Superintendent's August Report

By Donald Vorrath

1. Paving is completed on Plank Road from Franklin County Rt. 48 to and including the Roseman Lane intersection. Roseman Lane also was paved to the Essex County line. The section of Plank Road from the Roseman Lane intersection to the Clinton County line was not paved because Roseman Lane was in greater need. Total tonnage of asphalt used was 2,500 tons, which included 186 loads. Municipalities that lent assistance include: Franklin County (use of paver and personnel); the Village of Saranac Lake; the townships of Altamont, Brighton, and Harrietstown. It goes without saying that without this mutual aid and assistance, the Town of Franklin wouldn't be able to accomplish what was done within the time allotted and at the costs incurred. My thanks to everyone who helped.

2. Town of Franklin trucks and personnel lent assistance to both the Town of Brighton and the Town of Harrietstown to help with their paving projects.

3. Mowing is ongoing and will continue throughout the summer. The Onchiota landfill also was mowed, as required by the DEC closure procedure.

4. A driveway culvert was installed on Swinyer Road.

5. The truck turnaround on Mensink Road was enlarged, which included installation of a 60-foot culvert.

6. Crusher run was added to the truck turn-around on Bass Pond Road. That section becomes muddy during thaws and needed some additional base.

7. All of the dirt roads in town have been raked.

8. The line of sight at the Fletcher Farm Road corner (across from Fran and Bill Oliver's) has been improved. Trees were cut and the corner ditched for drainage.

9. Paye Road work was completed. The work included installing and replacing culverts, grading, and ditching. A flexible culvert system was required around two utility poles. Select stone was added to help with roadside drainage. Crusher run was added to the side and was graded to the select stone. The entire road was raked.

10. Visual sight of roadside signs is being improved with tree trimming and, in some cases, sign replacement.

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Adelphia Cable Contract Due for Renewal

According to Town Attorney Ed Murphy, the town's contract with Adelphia Cable expires May 2, 2005, now is the time for the town to begin the process of reviewing the present contract and deciding whether or not to renew it.

Besides reading over and studying the written contract, the board will hold public hearings and gather public input. Residents in the town will have the opportunity to voice their problems or complaints with the cable service and to have those issues considered for the new contract.

There are many complicated federal and state statutes that cover cable service to be considered in the renewal process. Murphy recommended to the board that they meet with Tom Isabella, a representative from Franklin County Public Service Commission. Isabella works with

towns throughout Franklin County to advise town boards on negotiating contracts in the best interests of each community, and he has a good reputation among other towns he's worked with in the past.

Adelphia Cable currently is in the news for having serious leadership and financial problems, and they recently filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. In this case, bankruptcy can be considered as a positive since bankruptcy laws will protect any agreements with them.

The board agreed that good cable service is important to the town residents and that the renewal process should be done carefully. As a first step, Murphy will invite Isabella to a regular town board meeting. The board will follow up with public hearings and will make every effort to get input from residents on all issues regarding their cable service. ❖

West Nile Virus Still a Concern in Franklin County

Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith reminds all Town of Franklin residents that the West Nile Virus is still of concern in New York State.

According to Mary Beth Pelletieri of the Franklin County Public Health Department, the virus hasn't been identified in Franklin County recently. However, in early August an infected bird was found in Clinton County. Pelletieri says the health department is taking reports of dead birds, and anyone who finds one should contact the department at 891-4471.

Birds most often killed by the virus are crows and blue jays.

The health department advises that the West Nile virus infection often has no symptoms. Mild cases can cause a slight fever and headache. A serious infection can cause a high fever with head and body aches.

In some cases, West Nile virus can cause encephalitis. While it is not dangerous to most people, some people who can get very sick are people over the age of 50 and people with weakened immune systems. Anyone who notices symptoms should contact their health care provider right away.

To be on the safe side, the department encourages county residents to help minimize mosquito breeding by getting rid of standing water around homes, to cut weeds and tall grasses, and to "fight the bite" by taking steps to minimize getting bitten. Wear protective clothing, fix the screens on the house, use sprays, and stay in when the mosquitoes are at their worst at dawn and dusk. ❖

No Response On Bid Ad for Town Hall Painting

The Town of Franklin's advertisement for bids for painting of the Franklin Town Hall brought no responses. The town hall is peeling, and the two sides facing Rt. 3 and Cold Brook Road are very much in need of attention.

Getting the building painted is only the most immediate of concerns to the Franklin Town Board as it deliberates the future of the town hall. Already the space is not sufficient for accommodating the various offices required to perform town business and to serve as a center for everything from court to board meetings to community get-togethers. A committee is studying adding on to the building, or remodeling it as it is and building a new facility at the Kate Mt. Park property.

The town also recently put out to bid the clean up of the old trailer, septic, and trash on the property it purchased last year on Rt. 3 near Kate Mt. Park. The land was purchased from the county by the board under the then-town supervisor Mary Fredenburg. The old drilled well on the property will supply water to that side of the park. Mrs. Fredenburg applied and won a grant that will pay for the clean up.

The board will re-advertise for the painting. Anyone interested in bidding

on the job should contact Lauren LeFebvre at the town hall for specs.

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Residents may recall that in past years inmate work crews helped with maintenance work, mowing the park and ball field, and with the construction of the Kate Mt. Park pavilion. Now there are few inmate work crews available and they stay busy on state projects. Only Camp Gabriels has inmate workers since the facilities in Ray Brook were upgraded from minimum security and inmates no longer can go out to into the community. The state also now requires that any municipality who uses inmate help must provide training, provide all tools, and have a town employee on hand to oversee the men at all times. ❖

Highway Superintendent Report

(Continued from page 4)

11. Continued work on repairs on trucks, and now the backhoe is down (injector and broken bolt in the block). Oh well. What do you expect with aging equipment?

12. An inventory was taken as to what roads are in dire need of ditching and grading. This work needs to be done because of improper drainage. When runoff cannot get off the road surface, it tends to run off the side, which in turn causes the fines to wash away and the side of the road to break off. We cannot complete the entire system in a year, but we will attempt to correct the most troublesome areas. Some people object to the grading that is necessary to complete this task, but it is an operation long overdue, and our roads have begun to show the damage. Remember the three main areas for good roads: drainage, drainage, and drainage. ❖

Town of Franklin Seniors Welcome at SL Center

The Franklin County Association of Senior Citizens's Saranac Lake Adult Center provides a multitude of services and programs for seniors. Betty Kochar, director of the center, wants residents of the Town of Franklin to know that in spite of their name, all of the center's services are available to Town of Franklin seniors as well as to Saranac Lake residents.

Many seniors are familiar with the events held regularly at the center. "Any of the activities we have at the center -- card parties, trips to casinos, bingo, French classes, dances, swimming at North Country Community College, congregate meals -- are available to Town of Franklin residents, and we want to let them know about it," Kochar told the Franklin Town Board at the August meeting. The center also is an approved site for R.S.V.P., the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Beyond the social events, the center serves as a comprehensive source of information to seniors and families of seniors on services, benefits, and entitlements available to them.

While Town of Franklin seniors are welcome at the center, Kochar said that their services aren't limited to those who can get to the center. They have two

outreach workers who come to the Town of Franklin to meet with and offer services to Franklin homebound seniors.

Paula Tuthill is employed by the Franklin County Association of Senior Citizens, Inc., and the Franklin County for the Aging as a case manager, and she works out in the community.

"A lot of my contacts come through referrals from relatives, friends, and neighbors of someone who needs help," she said. Because she lives in the Town of Franklin, Tuthill considers Franklin seniors her neighbors many people are comfortable with approaching her for help. "And as a Tuthill, just about every other person in town knows me through one of my husband's relatives," she said.

Many of Tuthill's clients are homebound. "That doesn't necessarily mean someone who can't get around at all," she said. They consider anyone without transportation to be eligible for outreach services.

After each referral, Tuthill does an evaluation to match the senior to in-home care, which can include anything from housekeeper/chore services to home-delivered meals. She makes sure her clients have all information on

the available services, and then helps them to obtain what they need.

Case assistant Francine Lester works for Franklin County Association of Senior Citizens, Inc. On her home visits, Lester focuses on assisting clients with paperwork. "I help people with applications for programs like HEAP (for heating fuel in the winter) and STAR (property tax exemption), and I give out information on North Country Home Services and Franklin County Nursing Service." Lester also helps anyone who has trouble understanding their medical or Medicare bills.

Tuthill estimates that, in one way or another, she and Lester currently serve close to 150 Franklin seniors, including 13 housing assistances. Services to the Town of Franklin have grown in recent years due to restructuring at Franklin County Senior Services, and the center staff would like to see the number grow.

The phone number at the Saranac Lake Adult Center is 891-2980. Kochar, Tuthill, and Lester are eager to meet with anyone who may be eligible for senior programs, and they encourage anyone who knows a senior who would benefit from their services to give them a call.

"The opportunities always are there," Kochar said. ♦

Franklin Falls Cemetery Committee Formed

(Continued from page 1)

Although that property probably is in Essex County, recently the Town of Franklin cleared the area and has been mowing it, according Vivian Manny of the Town of Franklin Cemetery Committee.

For many years, Mrs. Arnold's husband, Ralph, was president of the Union Cemetery Association. After his death, the cemetery book, which dates back to the Franklin Falls settlement, and a map of the cemetery were passed on to Olga Sprague.

Sprague's family has been in the area for five generations, and she, too, has family members buried in the cemetery. Her father, Leon Knapp, had surveyor Fred Kline draw up the map. Knapp

started by identifying graves they knew and then used memories of families to identify as many more as they could. Even so, today there are a lot of graves with no markers.

"One of the funny things," Sprague said, "is how many of the people from Franklin County [Town of Franklin] are buried in the Essex County [Town of St. Armand] side, and how many people from Essex County are buried on the Franklin County side."

In the long tradition of keeping the documents in private hands, Mrs. Sprague passed the documents on to Jeff and Amy Whisher when they bought her house. This summer, they moved to Potsdam, New York. They gave the

map to Eric Fahl but kept the book.

At the urging of Mrs. Arnold, the Franklin Town Board formed a committee to find a permanent solution to the future of the cemetery. Joining Mrs. Arnold will be Town of Franklin Superintendent Mary Ellen Keith, Town of Franklin Cemetery Committee members Tim Goff and Vivian Manny, and Eric Fahl and Richard Arnold.

Fahl will update the map and then will turn over a copy to the Town of Franklin town clerk, and Mr. and Mrs. Whisher will be contacted about the book. The committee will meet with Town of St. Armand Supervisor Joyce Morency to work out an agreement between the towns to maintain the property. ♦