

Town of Franklin

October 2002 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 10

October 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 Canty

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 next regular meeting will be held Monday, November 11, 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. ❖

Haunted House Wednesday, October 30

Be Careful What You Wish For . . . (The Continuing Saga of the Haunted House)

by Lauren LeFebvre

Just when the Celebration Committee was ready to throw in the towel with this First Ever Town of Franklin Haunted House, interest skyrocketed. When I say "ready to throw in the towel" it was less the thirty minutes away from the chopping block. When I arrived at the September Celebration Committee meeting the parking lot was full. I assumed it was the painters. I walked in, head hanging low, resigned to the fact that this was just not the year to load the Town Hall with zombies. (Man, there's a joke in there and I just can't do it!) Lo and behold there was a table full of interested people

enthusiastically talking about the Haunted House.

The premise of the Haunted House is a secret but I can tell you a few things. First, there is no charge but as they say "donations are appreciated". The Celebration Committee hopes to put any funds raised toward the Children's Christmas Party in December. Second, there are three possible exits once you enter. This leaves room for those who have a change of heart or are in need of a change of pants. Third, St. Paul's Food Pantry, courtesy of Mary Ellen Keith, will be giving out Halloween treats.

If you have forgotten, we
(Continued on page 2)

Post Office Work Resumes . . . Spring Opening?

At long last, work has resumed on what will be the Vermontville Post Office.

According to Doug Baer of Baer Realty in Troy, New York, a new contractor has taken over the project. Baer Realty is developing the property and will lease the building to the United States Postal Service. The new construction firm is HTI Home Two, Inc., from Vermont.

"We're on our second contractor. Once they're up and going we expect the new contractor to go at the job full force" to get it done, Baer said.

Initially, Baer said the work should be complete in 60 to 90 days, but later said to look for a spring opening.

When asked about the long wait for the grand opening, Postmistress Beth Bordeau said, "It will be here eventually, we just have to be patient and wait until the work is done. It will be wonderful for the community."

Bordeau is happy to see workers at the site again.

"We just staying positive about the whole thing," she said. ❖

Buildings Use Committee Report

This spring, Town Justice Symonds needed to share space on court night with the rabies clinic. Diners at the September scholarship fund lasagna dinner were squeezed tight. The seniors fill every space at their bi-monthly potluck dinners and business and social meetings. In their shared office, Codes Officer Lagree needs to get up out of his chair when Town Clerk LeFebvre needs to get into her file drawer.

Frank Karl would like to know just what you think should be done about it all.

Karl is one of five citizens who have been asked by the Town of Franklin Board to look into the town's space problems and to decide what to do about the town's aging Franklin and Merrillville town halls. Joining Karl on the committee are Roger Symonds, Janet Ordway, Jean Baltzly, and Walt Kretser.

As they began their October meeting, Mary Ellen Keith gave the committee direction from the board on what they would like to see the committee accomplish. An urgent issue is plans for safe and adequate storage for town records. More space is needed to be used as a community center for residents. They asked the committee look into ap-

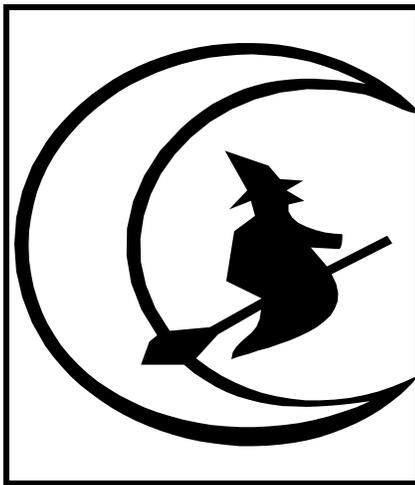
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Halloween Haunted House

(Continued from page 1)

are still in need of many things. We only need them for the one night so if anyone has the following items, we could sure use them:

1. Anything that looks like it could be in a laboratory
2. Halloween decorations- especially gross things
3. Glow in the dark decorations
4. Interesting din-



ner table centerpieces

We have every intention of being "flexible" Ghouls. We will make every effort to accommodate every visitor.

This is to put parents of little ones minds at ease. No one wants to scar your little pumpkin for life.

We'll wait until they're at least 10 for that!

Hope to see you Wednesday, October 30, between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.❖

Get Ready for Winter . . .

Flu Clinics

The Franklin County Health Department will hold a flu clinic for seniors on Friday, October 25, from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. at the Franklin Town Hall. There is no cost for the shot for anyone who is covered by Medicare Part 2. Otherwise, the charge will be \$10. Pneumonia vaccinations also will be available for \$20.

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The Franklin County Nursing Service will hold its flu clinic on Monday, October 21, 2002, at the Saranac Lake Adult Center from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The shots are free to seniors who are eligible for Medicare. The cost of the shot for those not covered by Medicare will be \$10. Paula Tuthill, Franklin County Office for the Aging case manager, said that seniors should call for an appointment. The number at the center is 891-2980.

STAR Tax Exemptions

With this fall's school tax bills in hand, residents are calling the Franklin Town Hall about the STAR exemption. The tax program is available to seniors and residents whose household income qualifies them for the exemption.

Basically . . . it's too late for this year. However, eligible homeowners can apply for next year's tax bill. The applications are available through the town assessor, Doug Tichenor, at 483-0188, or can be picked up at the Franklin Town Hall. The deadline each year for STAR applications is March 1.

Keep in mind: Paperwork must be filled out every year; the exemption applies only toward school taxes, and it can be used for primary residences only – no second homes or vacant land.❖

Nov. Town Tuesday to be Sponsored by Nazarene Church

The November Town Tuesday will be held at the Franklin Town Hall on November 19.

The Vermontville Community Church of the Nazarene will host a Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. to raise money to refurbish the parsonage.

"We are currently without a pastor and really are in no shape to hire a new pastor until the parsonage is fixed up," according to Lauren LeFebvre.

Pastor Betty Jean Goodwin and her family moved from Vermontville this fall. Goodwin has taken a position at the Eastern Nazarene College in Boston.

"It's a catch 22. Membership is dwindling because of the lack of a pastor, leaving a severe lack of funds in the of-

fering plate," LeFebvre said. "The Nazarene Church depends solely on the membership for financial support. There is no Big Office somewhere funneling money to every little parish."

The "cost" of the dinner will be a donation at the door. There will be eat-in and take-out dinners available.

Under the guidance of Goodwin, the Nazarene Church was community-oriented. The Goodwins were regular volunteers at town events, and the church sponsored a lively and popular youth group.

Anyone who will not be at the dinner but who would like to donate to the church to help with the parsonage should contact the church.❖

Dates of Upcoming Town Meetings and Events

Monday, October 21, 2002 – Flu Clinic at Saranac Lake Adult Center; call for appointment at 891-2980

Thursday, October 24, 2002 – Board business meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Town Hall

Friday, October 25, 2002 – Flu Clinic, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Franklin Town Hall

Wednesday, October 30, 2002 – Haunted House night, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5, 2002 – Election Day, polls open 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Franklin Town Hall, Merrillville and Food Pantry Pie and Bake Sale

Monday, November 11, 2002 – Regular monthly town board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Town Hall

Tuesday, November 19, 2002 – Nazarene Church spaghetti dinner, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Franklin Town Hall

Wednesday, November 20, 2002 – Building Use Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Franklin Town Hall

Town "Garbage Law" goes into effect

Town Clerk Lauren LeFebvre was notified by the State of New York that the town's Local Law for the Prohibition of Improper Storage of Garbage in the Town of Franklin is in effect.

At the September regular meeting, the board proposed a law that would give the town the authority to act in situations where garbage has been allowed to accumulate and become a health hazard.

A public hearing was held September 18, and the board unanimously voted to

adopt the law.

The law carefully defines garbage and proper storage of garbage. Garden compost clearly is not included.

"We understand that sometimes there are situations that make it difficult or impossible for people to get rid of their garbage. This gives us a way to clean up the situation," according to Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith.

The town's code officer will enforce

the law. A homeowner or tenant notified of a violation would be required to clean up the garbage or secure it in a proper garbage receptacle or compost within ten days.

The homeowner or tenant can request an informal hearing if there are other issues to consider. If the situation is not taken care of, the town can then have the site cleaned up, with all of the costs added to the homeowner's next annual tax bill.❖

E911 questionnaires to be out soon

Rick Brown, who with Don Work has been hired by the County of Franklin to prepare the Town of Franklin for the Emergency 911 system, reported to Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith that the work is three weeks behind schedule, but is coming along.

Brown was at the town hall recently to check town maps to verify the correct names of some of the roads.

Road names have a way of informally

evolving over the years. The Mud Pond-Mensink Road is actually the Kushaqua-Mud Pond Road. According to the memory of some residents, the Fletcher Farm Road for many years had been known as the Franklin Falls Road because after the town became part of the Saranac Lake Central School District the bus garage identified it as such.

The board may need to consider putting money into the budget for new signs

so the roads are correctly designated for the E911 emergency system.

The next step in the E911 project, mailing out questionnaires to town residents, will begin soon. Getting accurate information is important for the system to work, and Brown is hoping for a good response.

The questionnaire will come with a stamped return envelope and will take only a minute to fill out.❖

Is doubling the County Landfill a good idea?

by Frank Karl

The Franklin County Solid Waste Committee will meet on Thursday, October 24th at the Malone Court House at 4:00 p.m. On the agenda is the question of asking DEC to increase our allowable amount of solid waste from the current 43,500 tons per year to 100,000 tons. To give you some idea of what this means (instead of just more political garbage -- no pun intended), if we were able to collect every morsel of garbage generated in Franklin County, it would amount to about 28,000 to 30,000 tons. So, the proposal would mean, if passed as is and approved by DEC, that we would import twice the garbage from out of the county as we ourselves generate.

Said another way, we could become the garbage can for what would amount to out-of-county sources, equal to two counties our size.

Some of us on the board feel that a reasonable increase would help to stabi-

lize our economic future. Currently, three of the seven board members feel that an increase of perhaps 10,000 to 16,000 tons maximum would be more than adequate. Down the road, should a change up or down be necessary it could be addressed by the board at that time.

What does all this mean to Franklin county residents? Any increase means more traffic on county roads, and that our cells at the main landfill will fill faster and thus the need to construct more cells in a shorter time frame. Thus, a larger landfill.

At a recent meeting, a town supervisor stated that he was in favor of the increase to 100,000 tons. However, when I asked him why, he said that it would fill the current cells faster and the landfill would be closed and they could be rid of it! At that point, I turned to the rest of the board and our administrator and asked if any of them anticipated a closure of the landfill. Silence!

In fairness, full closure would mean

that Franklin County residents would have to find another place for their garbage, construction waste, etc.

My personal view: Keep the landfill going as it currently is, run by the County Solid Waste Authority (not privatized), a reasonable increase in tonnage to assure economic security (if necessary), improve our recycling program, and keep our facilities in a manner responsible to the surrounding communities. Once our bonds are paid off, in about ten years, our expenses will diminish dramatically.

It is important that you become informed of what is going on and let your views be known to the Solid Waste Board, or your county legislators. If you have a trash collector or if you take your own, make sure it goes to the Franklin County Landfill or to the transfer station in Lake Clear. The more we get from within the county the less will be required from outside.

Who would have thought that garbage could be so much fun?❖

Highway Superintendent Report

by Donald A. Vorrath
Highway Superintendent

Since our last meeting of September 9, 2002, much has happened in the highway department.

1. All the mowing of the roadsides was completed and mower has been removed from tractor for winter. Tractor three-point hitch is now set with rake - weather permitting, to rake dirt roads.

2. Hot patching was completed on Oregon Plains, Kushaqua-Mud Pond, and Alder Brook Roads. We have many more areas to address and will try to patch the most critical of them.

3. Cold patching also is continuing.

4. A large culvert, 24" x 30", was installed on Goldsmith Road. The old steel culvert (blocked solid by beavers) was removed. New beaver grates were built and chained to the culvert.

5. Four (4) new driveway culverts were also installed, one (1) each on Muzzy Road and Blue Spruce Drive, and two (2) on Fletcher Farm Road.

6. Some additional widening of Merrill Road also was accomplished.

7. A major washout was repaired on Bigelow Road.

8. An exposed pipe on Garden Drive was torch-cut and removed before it became a hazard for a wing plow. An exposed section of steel culvert, which also was a plow hazard, was removed on Goldsmith Road.

9. The Highway Department employ-

ees attended and participated in the First Annual M.A. Jerry's Snow Plow Rodeo, and I'm pleased to report that driver Eric Merrill and wing Darin Lindsay ranked 11th out of 23 teams representing various villages, towns, counties, and state.

10. Highway personnel hauled fill from the new post office to 15 residents of our town. This number doesn't include the people who contracted for fill.

11. Your Highway Superintendent attended the 57th Annual New York State Highway Superintendents Conference in Monticello September 24 - 27, 2002, and found it to be a rewarding learning experience. Besides the various sessions that pertain to highway administration, there were also vendor displays, exhibits, and demonstrations of new equipment and products. The networking with other superintendents is beyond measure. As part of a continuing education program, I want to thank the Town of Franklin for this opportunity.

12. Highway personnel also were involved in a pending arbitration proceeding involving a terminated employee. This issue isn't resolved at present but it does, nonetheless, take some time from regular work schedules.

And, finally - fill. All of the roadside or other town-excavated fill is distributed to the residents of the town who request it. It usually is hauled to areas where certain types of fill are either needed or wanted.

Keep in mind that most fill contains

sand, roadside debris, clumps of grass and brush, stones, and, in some cases, boulders and stumps. Where we can, we usually drop fill to try to fit the residents' requests.

The Highway Department is winding down this operation for the year, and will start getting "dressed" for winter. Delivery of sand and salt begins this week. ❖

Speaking of Sand . . .

The contract for road sand was awarded to Trudeau Sand and Gravel. The town buys 12,000 tons of sand a year to use on the roads during the winter.

Unlike the state's heavy use of salt on Route 3, the town's sand contains only about five percent salt. According to Don Vorrath, Town Highway Supervisor, the salt in the sand is not used to melt ice on the roads but to keep the sand from freezing so it will be loose for spreading from the sanders.

Vorrath asked the board to consider buying more salt for the upcoming winter. Because of the lack of snow last year, the highway department used more salt than usual, and they had to use some of the reserves.

"With lots of snow, sand takes care of the roads," he explained. "Without the snow cover, ice builds up and salt is needed to clear the roads."

Vorrath also noted that lack of snow in the winters also in harder on the town plows. ❖

Board Prepares 2003 Budget

October is the month that town boards meet to work out their budgets for the following year. The Town of Franklin Board has been anticipating budgeting by holding workshops throughout the year to evaluate the needs and problems at various town sites.

The Franklin Town Board completed their October budget workshops and will soon have the preliminary budget for the 2003 fiscal year. It will be presented at a public hearing Thursday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m. The final budget must be adopted by November 20.

Revenue that comes to the town in addition to taxes includes funds from the state, interest payments, fees paid to the town clerk and codes officer, and fines collected by the town justice.

To increase revenues and reduce taxes, Town Clerk Lauren LeFebvre has agreed to collect late property taxes for the county, and Highway Supervisor Don Vorrath has been sharing equipment and personnel with other towns and the county. The board and town officers also have been purchasing goods and equipment through state contract. ❖

Heating Assistance Applications Available

The HEAP applications are available for this year. HEAP helps low income and senior citizen residents with winter heating bills. Applications are available through the Saranac Lake Adult Center at 891-2980.

When you call, you can ask for Paula Tuthill or Francine Lester. Either one of them can help with the HEAP paperwork. They urge anyone who may be eligible to take advantage of the program to help with winter's heating bills. ❖

LaPier Joins BOAR

With the expiration of Gene Irvine's term on September 30, 2002, the board nominated Roland LaPier as a new member of the town's Board of Assessment Review.

The board is made up of five members, each with a five-year term. On Tax Grievance Day, BOAR members hear complaints from taxpayers who want to contest their assessment. The BOAR has the authority to lower an assessment if the complainant can prove that the as-

essment is too high or in error. Members are required to attend training held by the New York State Board of Real Property Services.

BOAR members also requested that the board act to change the Grievance Day date to accommodate members' and Assessor Doug Tichenor's schedules. Currently, town law requires that Grievance Day be held the first Wednesday in June. The date will require an amendment to town law. ❖

SL Library Planning Expansion

The Saranac Lake Free Library will be expanding their building to accommodate the growth in book inventory and services over the years.

Dr. Francis Trudeau opened the library in 1890 with a collection of 400 books. Today the library has over 35,000 books, 11 computers for library users, a video collection, and an art collection. There is a section of large-print books, and spaces have been set aside for the literacy volunteer program and the English-as-second-language program. The building also houses the Dickert Wildlife Collection, and the Cantwell Room for exhibits and meetings. The original building had three additions over the years, the last in 1985.

The \$75,000 building project will allow the library to expand space to for each of each of those programs and services, and also will include a new "children's room" which will provide for children's books and programs, including a safe and positive space for young adults to use after school.

In compliance with New York State law, the plans will need include bringing the library building up to date with all building codes and handicap access requirements.

On behalf of the campaign, Merle Smith and Kirk Petersen of Saranac Lake met with the town board asking for financial help. The board hesitated to add to next year's budget.

"Our taxpayers already support the library in their school taxes and we don't want to tax residents again for the building project," Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith said. She suggested to them that the town sponsor a fundraiser instead.

Councilman Walt Kretser agreed. "I know about fundraisers, and I think you may get more that way than through the board," he added.

Petersen welcomed the offer. "I'd be delighted to participate, to come out and help," he said.

The town board tentatively scheduled fundraiser dinner sometime early next year for the library. ❖

Painting Done in Time for Winter

After putting out bids for the second time, the Town Board contracted with Pallotta Painting of Lake Placid for \$8,750 to paint the Franklin Town Hall. The two sides of the building facing Rt. 3 and Cold Brook Road were badly peeling and were in urgent need of attention.

There have been some comments about the new colors. Paint delivered to the town had been mixed incorrectly. The scraping already had been done, and Gene Goff and Walt Kretser, who were overseeing the work, decided that the

color was fine and would do rather than risk not getting paint on the bare, scraped wood. Even with the unusually warm and dry October days, the painting season was coming to a close.

The two trees in front of the town hall were taken down before the painting began. One tree was growing up into the overhead electrical wires, and the other tree was growing up against the building and hiding the "Town of Franklin" sign. ❖

Thank You for Lasagna Dinner

The Town of Franklin Scholarship Committee wishes to thank all of the volunteers, donors, and guests at the First Annual Back-To-School Lasagna Dinner.

With the help – and patience – of Dave Dekkers, the committee and volunteer workers managed to serve 175 diners.

"We initially planned for 125 to 150 dinners, and at last minute decided to plan for more, thinking we'd find something to do with the leftovers," according to committee member Shir Filler. "In the end, we had to turn away the last half dozen or so people." Even committee members and workers didn't have a chance to enjoy the lasagna.

The approximately \$1,200 made at the dinner will be added to funds for scholarships that will be distributed in April 2003. The committee awards several scholarships each year to residents of the Town of Franklin who have completed at

least one semester of post-high school education with a B average or better.

Volunteer cooks and servers at the dinner included Vincent Fallica, Barbara Karl, Mary Ellen Keith, Katrine Kretser, Merriam Lawrence, Norma Longo, Bill Oliver, Janet Ordway, Brooke Symonds, Tina Tyler, and Bruce Young. Committee members are Shir Filler, Fran Oliver, Walt Kretser, Lorrie Rumble, Al Berg, and Reid Fitzsimons.

Donors to the dinner were Gene's Grocery and Tops Market, the Adirondack Medical Center, and the many bakers and cooks who provided the large variety of homemade desserts.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Gloria Downs of Saranac Lake. The candy-filled piñatas, donated by Tops Market and Fran Oliver, were won by Anastasia and Cody Brush, Lorrie Donaldson, Cathy Morris, and Margaret Turnbull. ❖

Election Day November 5, 2002

Tuesday, November 5, 2002, is Election Day. All voters are urged to get out and to vote.

It's tradition now: The St. Paul's Food Pantry will hold a pie and bake sale in the Franklin Town Hall Election Day. As in past years, the Election Day bake sale will help to support the pantry's Thanksgiving and Christmas fund.

To help you prepare for whom you wish to vote, Alan Oliver, Town Elections Custodian, has provided a list of names you fill in on this year's ballot.

Governor

Republican: George E. Pataki
 Democratic: H. Carl McCall
 Independence: B. Thomas Golisano
 Conservative: George E. Pataki
 Liberal: Andrew M. Cuomo
 Right to Life: Gerard J. Cronin
 Green: Stanley Aronowitz
 Working Families: H. Carl McCall
 Marijuana Reform: Thomas K. Leighton
 Libertarian: Scott Jeffrey

Lt. Governor

Republican: Mary O. Donohue
 Democratic: Dennis Mehiel
 Independence: Mary O. Donohue
 Conservative: Mary O. Donohue
 Liberal: Charles G. King
 Right to Life: Stasia T. Vogel
 Green: Jennifer Daniels
 Working Families: Dennis Mehiel
 Marijuana Reform: Thomas J. Hillgardner
 Libertarian: Jay Greco

Comptroller

Republican: John Fuso
 Democratic: Alan G. Hevesi
 Independence: John Faso
 Conservative: John Faso
 Liberal: Alan G. Hevesi
 Right to Life: Gariflaia Christea
 Green: Howie Hawkins
 Working Families: Alan G. Hevesi
 Libertarian: James Eisert

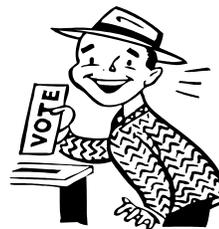
Attorney General

Republican: Dora Irizarry
 Democratic: Eliot L. Spitzer
 Independence: Eliot L. Spitzer
 Conservative: Dora Irizarry
 Liberal: Eliot L. Spitzer

Right to Life: John J. Broderick
 Green: Mary Jo Long
 Working Families: Eliot L. Spitzer
 Marijuana Reform: Daniel A. Conti, Jr.

Member of Assembly, Dist. 114

Republican: George Christian Ortloff
 Democratic: Cornelius P. Tallon
 Independence: George Christian Ortloff
 Conservative: George Christian Ortloff



State Senator, Dist. 45

Republican: Elizabeth O'C. Little
 Democratic: Boyce Sherwin
 Independence: Elizabeth O'C. Little
 Conservative: Elizabeth O'C. Little

Rep. in Congress, Dist. 23

Republican: John M. McHugh
 Conservative: John M. McHugh

Sheriff

Jack Pelkey

County Coroner

Republican: Ron Keough
 Democratic: Brian S. Langdon

Residents' Input Sought

(Continued from page 1)

proaches to the space problem, including expanding the current town hall, moving all facilities to the recreation field, a combination of the two, or any other alternative. There are some capital funds in the town budget, but the committee was asked to research additional funding, including fund raising, state and federal grants, and bonding.

The committee began their meeting by discussing the inadequate office space. State requirements and recommendations currently are not being met. For instance, the town justice office is supposed to have two doors, one of which should be an outside exit, and the justice's seat is supposed to be on a raised platform. Space for jury trials is inadequate. The town clerk's space also doesn't meet the state's suggested space for the computer system set up for hunting and fishing licenses. The buildings will have to meet code and handicap accessibility laws.

The committee also wants to anticipate what needs will be as the town's population grows. Expanding office space in the Franklin Town Hall will further shrink the community meeting space. Already events often come close to exceeding the occupancy limit.

Residents and taxpayers will be asked for their input about the town's needs, and how best to meet those needs.

The committee would like to know if residents feel that building on the two

acres set aside at the Kate Mt. Park would be an option they would support.

How do people feel about adding on to the Franklin Town Hall? While the town hall is not a historic site, it is a unique structure. Do people have strong feelings about changing the character of the building by adding on to it?

Should the town hall be used as a library/museum and as a repository for items of historic value?

Should the town discontinue using Merrillville as a voting site, or should the building be upgraded and used for meetings and community gatherings?

Keeping the community informed and involved in the project is of utmost importance to the committee. Karl attended a senior citizens dinner meeting in October to discuss with them their need for more space and their thoughts and suggestions on the future of town buildings. He will report their input to the committee at the next meeting. Karl plans to attend Town of Franklin board meetings both to give reports on the committee's work and to ask for input from the board and the audience.

"Anyone with an opinion or an idea is welcome to contact any of the committee members or the board members with their thoughts," Karl said, "or, better yet, to attend our meetings.

The building use committee will meet the third Wednesday every month. The next meeting will be November 20, 2002, at the town hall at 6:30 p.m. ❖