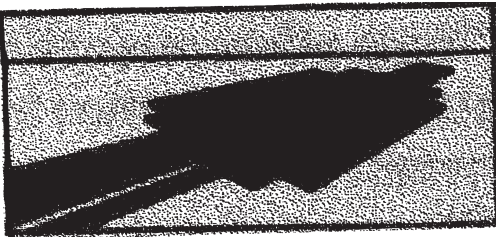

Kite & Key

Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

November, 2005

Franklin Council for the



Visual and Performing Arts

It all started in the spring of 1979 when Judy Coe had the idea of creating an art show to be held on the Village Green, a setting ideal for such gatherings. The idea was received with both positive and negative reaction. The Franklin Village Council for the Performing Arts was not deterred. They continued their efforts to nurture the arts in Franklin.

Their mission was to seek and draw attention to talented local artists, most of whom did not even know how to become involved in a show. Carole Berhorst, a young lady with a passion for pottery, was one example. Her living room looked like a potter's shed filled with great pieces that she formed on her wheel. Janice Bloom and Judy Coe coaxed and guided Carole into the show. Carole has since become one of our area's foremost potters.

Franklin School parents became the core of volunteers during the Council's formative time. They enthusiastically embraced the Council's possibilities and provided needed help. Janice Bloom donated time to become the council attorney. Villager Herman Barth con-

vinced his high school aged grand daughter, Sandy Barth, to create the Art Council's logo which is still used today. Many other individuals joined in and the first Art on the Green was held in October, 1980.

During the next three years, the show dates fluctuated. Council members approached the Franklin Community Association with the thought of merging the art show and the Labor Day Round Up. Both were separate entities, yet both support each other with the community's cultural and family interests. After some discussion, it was decided to hold both events on the same day.

During the Art Council's early

years, other successful programs emerged. A series of opera classes were held. They were headed by a well known opera enthusiast who discussed the stories and meaning of each season's schedule. Every class was a sell-out. Meetings and classes were held at school. The council worked with village merchants to provide fun art projects for children on Holly Day. They sponsored free trips for disadvantaged kids to visit the performing arts theater.

Revenues were raised through the rental of art show booth space and sale of goods at the annual show. They made it possible to award scholarships and give donations and sponsorships to community-wide-stu-

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Remembering Gini...



The flag at the Broughton House flies at half mast on July 23, 2005 - the day of the memorial service for Gini Rodgers. Gini and her late husband Stuart were instrumental in saving and restoring the building which now houses the Franklin Village Offices. She was one of the Historic Society's most enthusiastic board members. We will miss her involvement.

Museum Additions

The following items have been added to the Museum's collection:

From Randy Sax - a diagram of the West Family Tree

From Arney Anderson - Wood working tools, old kitchen utensils, a movie projector, and a portable washing machine motor

From Gini Rodgers' Family - All of Gini's files related to the Broughton House restoration. and many other things related to Franklin's history.

From Maxine Nelson - An antique razor collection, old toys, infant shoes and hat, Oakland County Atlas and History books, a world atlas, photographs and papers related to Franklin's history.

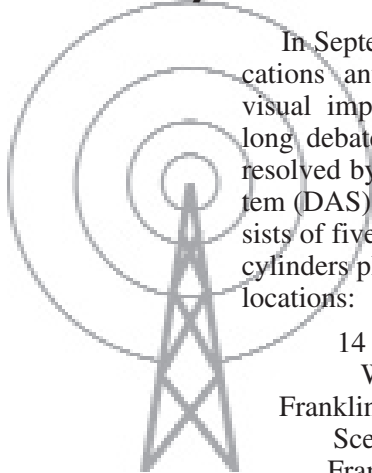
From Randy Brakeman - a wood burning stove from the Franklin Barber Shop.

From Anna Marie Roettiger - Holly Day mugs.

From Max Altekruse - Original line drawings of Franklin scenes as well as other significant art work.

From Carol Klein - Michigan Historic Commission documents and a 1960 Franklin Fire Department picture.

Historically Correct Cellular Communications



In September, a high-tech cellular communications antenna/transmitter with virtually no visual impact was launched in Franklin. The long debate of building a cell tower has been resolved by installing a distributed antenna system (DAS) for wireless communications. It consists of five one foot diameter by three foot long cylinders placed on utility poles at the following locations:

14 Mile and Captains (east end)
Wing Lake and River Drive
Franklin Road across from the post office
Scenic Drive west of Wellington
Franklin Road south of Woodlore

The system picks up and delivers cell phone signals and transmits them via a fiber optics network to and from each wireless provider's central communications facility. It is owned and operated by Clearlinx - a third party transmitter provider.

At present, Cingular is the sole wireless communications provider that is using the system. Discussions between Clearlinx and other providers are underway.

The Historic Society salutes the implementation of a system that provides modern technology while protecting the historically correct visual character of Franklin.

Visit us on the Web at
www.franklincivic.org

Then click on
Franklin Historical Museum

Congleton Buggy Works Relocation

George Congleton, blacksmith and buggy maker, has relocated his shop on Franklin Road to the Franklin Historical Museum. Congleton Buggy Works operated during the 1800's. The bellows, wood burning stove, wheel rim bending machine, wheelwright bench, anvil and other tools are on display. Visit the shop and learn about the craft that was an integral part of the Village. With a little imagination, you might even hear Congleton at work.

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Attention Members - Please renew your membership - Your donations are appreciated!



Kite & Key is a publication of the Franklin Historical Society. The Franklin Historical Society seeks to preserve such material, structures and artifacts that help to establish the history of the Village of Franklin and to provide for accessibility for those who wish to study it. The Society maintains a museum and archival area at the Derwich House, 26165 13 Mile Road (at Kirk). Volunteers and donations are most welcome.

The *Kite & Key* and the Society welcome mail at P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025. Our phone is 248-538-0565.

Contributors: Bill Lamott, Ann Lamott, and Judy Coe

dents, causes and programs.

For the last four years, the Council has sponsored Music on the Green - a series of concerts reminiscent of the by-gone era of community family gatherings. Karen Couf Cohen led the effort and many people joined in to help get the job done. This effort shows, once again, that arts are a vital part of our lives. The Council is thrilled by the community attendance and financial support.

Two other people have made very significant contributions to the Franklin Arts Council. Seglinda Pritchard was president for many years. Through her efforts, the Council grew. She remains a dedicated supporter today. Peggy Kerr, a younger member, introduced her wit, exuberance and knowledge of the art world. She also introduced the Council to the next generation to carry on the mission.

The council has shown that a simple idea can become meaningful and viable when it is supported by outstanding determination, enthusiasm and fortitude of a group of people with a common goal.

Congratulations to the Franklin Council for Visual and Performing Arts.

Great job!

Why Volunteer?

Most civic organizations in Franklin rely on voluntary help and financial support to accomplish their goals. Volunteerism is one of the core values that has made Franklin the great place that it is. What other small communities have public celebrations



Russ Frank (Left), Franklin's own Ben Franklin, enjoys his July 17th party with two of his friends.

Happy Birthday Ben!

January 17, 2006 commemorates Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday. On July 17, 2005, Villagers honored him with a 299 1/2 birthday celebration on the Village Green. Music was provided by the Franklin Band, the Plymouth Fire and Drum Corps. and the Franklin Community Church Choir. Everyone was treated to hot dogs, chips, kite cookies, ice cream and cake. Sack races, horseshoes, jump rope, marbles, hoop and stick and other old fashion games were enjoyed by all.

The Franklin Historical Society continues to celebrate Franklin's life through exhibits highlighting his contributions. Exhibits include: **Check it out! Fire!, The Kite Was Key, Hot Off the Press and Words of Wisdom.** You can visit your historic museum at 26165 Thirteen Mile Road at Kirk Lane on Wednesday and Saturday from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

on Memorial Day, Labor Day and early in December or summer music concerts, a local museum, a band, a garden club and a library friends group? In recent years, all of us involved in these groups have seen a decline in people who are willing to participate. As the older generation moves on, fewer younger residents volunteer.

It's unfortunate that we seem to be placing less emphasis on being an active part of our community. There is much personal satisfaction derived and community good accomplished, when neighbors work together to have fun and execute projects that benefit the public.

Volunteering in a Franklin organization provides a great opportunity to make new friends while creating activities that foster closer family ties.

Sometimes you don't know what you've got until it's gone. I hope that doesn't happen to us in Franklin. As an enthusiastic supporter of Franklin's heritage, I urge all residents to get involved in one of our civic organizations. The benefit is far greater than the cost.

Bill Lamott
Vice President
Franklin Historical Society

Winterfest Walking Tours

If you would like to journey into Franklin's past, then lace up your walking shoes and prepare for an historic blast!

On Saturday, December 3rd, the Franklin Historic Society is conducting walking tours of the village at 1 P.M., 2:30 P.M. and 4 P.M. Timed tickets can be purchased for \$10 at Escapades located at 32744 Franklin Road.

Tours begin at the gazebo on the Village Green and last approximately one hour. There are a limited number tickets available.

Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire

Once again the Franklin Historic Society will roast chestnuts during Winterfest. The tent will be set up near Yankee Designs.

Check out the mugs, stationary, afghans, All About Franklin books, prints and other items relating to the Village. You just might find a gift for that special someone.

Join us in some Winterfest fun!

Awhile Ago In Franklin . . .

On October 5, 1849 George B. Congleton purchased the property where the Franklin Grill is now located. He operated his buggy works until 1876.

Congleton's shop was important to the community. Like other blacksmiths in Franklin, he produced nails, chains, bullet molds, yoke rings, axles, traps, hoes, augers, bells, shears, locks, adzes, plowshares and wagons and buggies.

Adapted from All About Franklin, by Bettie Waddell Carmon 1979.

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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