Well brother, it’s been a few issues. On the health front, the back is much better, diabetes is under control weight is down a few pounds, blood pressure is great and things were looking rosy. Then I was driving along and couldn’t catch the flies that were darting in front of me. Before long, I realized it wasn’t flies but it was tons of floaters in my eye. After I ruled out a stroke or low insulin jolt, I spent several hours at the eye doctor and I now have a condition called Vitreous Detachment. One eye is filled with cobwebs and spots. They tell me in time the shadows should subside as long as the retina does not detach. So much for seeing things through rose colored glasses. Erica always use to say, “In the land of the blind, the one-eyed king rules”. I guess I’ll just have to find a new land.The good news is I finally have an excuse (other than fat fingers on the keyboard) for all the typos in the paper.

We’re celebrating the Labor Day weekend but it’s not much of a celebration anymore. I remember the big picnics at Aunt Tess’s house. Basketball in the driveway, wiffle ball in the yard and football in the street. Tons of food and tons of people laughing and enjoying each other till late into the evening.. Now it’s a small crowd and they all disappear by 4:00. Once again, I am reminded that things change. Where the hell is Jerry Lewis?

As this paper comes out, the bride and I will be celebrating 33 years marriage (I think). Seems like yesterday I donned a beige tux (size 34” waist) and danced the night away. Did I mention how things change?

The big focus on the Town over the last few months has been a group that has come forward to start a new Food Pantry in town. I’ve been trying to stay out of the fracas because it has become a touchy situation. On the one hand, you have a group of people who are trying to address a need they feel we have in the community. On the other hand, you have a Town Council looking at the entire picture and worried about an expense to the town when we presently have a somewhat limited food bank that does not cost taxpayers one cent.

Also, a few years ago when the building in question was closed and the Senior Center was moved to Northford, one of the points for the move was to use this building to produce revenue. At $1.00 a year rent, I’m sure that’s not the revenue they had in mind. But with both sides being very passionate, the issue has hit Facebook, local newspapers and even TV. Personal attacks are being made and in my mind, this isn’t the way it should be handled. With both sides expressing the desire to do good, it’s sort of a contradiction. These kinds of things push people out of volunteer public service.

Our beloved Yankees are done. Jeter will go out without a playoff appearance in his final year. I guess Pops would be happy because even though they will not make the playoffs it looks like they will finish ahead of the Red Sox.

Speaking of Jeter, he may be the last of the true sports heroes. He has always handled himself with class and his work ethic was an example to the kids. With dances in the end zone or after a tackle, bodies filled with tattoos and everyone have a celebration display, our kids don’t have anything wholesome to use as an example in sports.

Well, the peppers are jarred, the hot pepper relish is made and the tomatoes are cooking as we speak. the only thing left is the dreaded pickling and frying of the eggplants. Thank God North Branford has some of the best local farms in the state. I might even consider freezing corn this year as no-one has better corn than our local farms.

As usual, the conversation has turned to food. At least that’s one Italian tradition we still have. Take care and I’ll see you soon.