

Community Notes



Southeast High Speed Rail Public Hearing Coming Down the Tracks!

As you may be aware, there are currently plans in Congress and the Federal Railroad Administration to increase high speed rail opportunities across the country. One such opportunity is right here in North Carolina, where the proposed Southeast High Speed Rail is planned to carry passengers from Charlotte to Washington, DC, and on to New York, NY on a high speed rail corridor. The planned rail for SEHSR will have four stops – Charlotte, Raleigh, Richmond, and Washington, DC.

Currently, the planned corridor has two components already built – the section from Charlotte to Raleigh, and section from Richmond to Washington, DC. However, the piece that remains unconstructed is the section from Raleigh to Richmond. That corridor will travel right through the middle of Franklinton, on the current CSX rail line. The North Carolina Department of Transportation will be holding a series of public hearings across the region to share information and hear input from citizens about the plans for

SEHSR and its environmental impact, which is what has been studied thus far.

There is a planned public hearing for our area on July 29 at the Franklinton High School Gym. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the public hearing and information session. The evening will begin with an open house Information Session from 5:00pm – 7:00pm, with a public hearing starting at 7:00pm. The plan as proposed will close rail crossings at Joyner Street, Mason Street, East College Street, Hawkins Street and Bert Winston Road. A new crossing would be built across from Pine Street, another at Cedar Creek Road, and a wider crossing would be created at East Green Street. Having your voice heard is *crucial* in this major issue facing our community. **Please plan to attend on July 29 for more information and to make sure your voice and opinion are heard regarding these closures and planned corridors.** For more information, please visit www.sehsr.org.

- Elic A. Senter, Mayor
- Anita Fuller, Mayor Pro Tempore
- John Allers, Commissioner
- Al Barbour, Commissioner
- Joe Cutchins, Commissioner
- Art Wright, Commissioner



Mayor's Message

Happy Summer! I hope this finds you doing well and enjoying the great (albeit hot) weather we've been experiencing lately. There's certainly never a dull moment for those of us who serve you as your elected officials. As many of you may know, there has been a great deal of activity around the proposed high speed rail line that will be using tracks that currently run through the middle of our community. All of your Board members plan to attend the public hearing on July 29, and we hope you'll do the same to voice your thoughts about this important issue facing our community.

While it is summer, it's still a busy time here in Franklinton! The sewer line currently being laid on the west side of US 1 Highway is nearly complete...after two years of planning, grant seeking and funding, and re-planning after the total costs came in well under the planned budget! Hopefully, soon we'll be able to see the beginnings of a new Hardee's

Stand Up for America Again a Success!

There is no visual so spectacular as seeing those with pride in their hearts come together under a star spangled night to celebrate our freedom and those who guarantee it! That's exactly what over 3,000 citizens from Franklinton and surrounding areas chose to do on Sunday, July 4 at the Franklinton American Legion Post 52's 4th annual **Stand Up for America**. With nearly 20 vendors on hand to share information, raise funds for programs in and around the community, and provide fun for those in attendance, there was literally something for everyone at this annual event. Months of planning and fundraising by the members of the American Legion, led by Commander Harvey Satterwhite, proved to be well worth the effort.

There were several special new parts to this year's events. A performance by the Franklinton Baptist Church Choir celebrating America; an American flag lit from fireworks; a visit from a real Armed Forces helicopter; a balloon release (nearly 300 balloons!) in honor of funds raised for Heroes to Hometowns; performances by the Joe Cutchins Band and Sourwood Mountain Bluegrass Band; and a very special video celebrating the hard-working citizens of the Town of Franklinton all made this year's event the best ever. Proving its own popularity, the Franklinton High School Athletic Complex was literally filled with spectators – from the visitors bleachers to the home side bleachers to the field itself, thousands came to see the fireworks and celebrate!

The citizens of our community continue to owe a debt of gratitude to the Franklinton American Legion Post 52. The next time you see a member of the Legion, please take a moment to say 'thank you' – not just for Stand Up for America, but also, for standing up for America!



EVERGREEN CEMETERY



As you may know, in April the Board of Commissioners voted to begin maintenance at Evergreen Cemetery. Evergreen is currently a private cemetery adjacent to the Franklinton Elementary School playground, and is just outside

Town limits. The cemetery was created over 100 years ago as a final resting place for our community's African American citizens. At that time, African American citizens were not allowed to be buried in Fairview Cemetery, the official Town cemetery. Since then, Evergreen, its plots, roads, and markers have all been maintained by a committee of volunteers who have for decades raised funds to maintain the cemetery.

So, why take over the maintenance? The Franklinton Board of Commissioners believes that this is the first, important step in bringing Evergreen under the Town's umbrella, officially making Evergreen Cemetery a Town cemetery. While there is no way to go back in time and right wrongs done by those in days gone by, there is time and opportunity to set our future on a path that will bring our community together. So, in April, the Board of Commissioners voted to begin taking over maintenance at the cemetery with a goal of making the cemetery an official Town cemetery in December, 2011.

Do you own a plot in Evergreen Cemetery? Do you have relatives buried there? Please help the Evergreen Cemetery Committee and the Town staff in identifying those buried and those unfilled plots! There is a reporting form found online at www.franklintonnc.us. The reporting form can also be found at Town Hall. Please take an opportunity to share this information with us so that we may have the most accurate maps possible when Evergreen becomes a Town Cemetery. For more information, please call Town Hall at 919-494-2520.

Back to School

With the beginning of the new school year on August 25th, comes the rush of students to the downtown area. Citizens are asked to pay special attention and to slow down when traveling through school zones, especially between the hours of 7:30 am - 8:30 am and 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm. Our children's safety is of utmost importance so please remember your safety rules when traveling near schools!



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restaurant being built, with further business spurs possible off of that same sewer line.

Speaking of sewer...and water...I'm sure you've heard a great deal about Franklinton's Public Works program in recent weeks. The members of your Board of Commissioners and your staff spent hours – literally hundreds of hours, collectively, reviewing, examining models, examining debt, and examining infrastructure and working to plan for our needs not only for this year, but in the near future as well. In crafting our annual budget, we not only must look at what our most imminent needs are, but we must also craft a budget with long-term vision.

That's exactly what your Board did with the current rate structures. The rate structure is directly tied to the expenses not only of running our Public Works Department and the Franklinton Water Plant, but also the debt tied to each of those. In the next *Community Notes*, we'll have a special section devoted to our budget, and how it breaks down. (This issue was held so that it would be timed with the notice of the public hearing on the high speed rail, so we're not able to go further into the budget in this issue.)

On a personal note...I want to say thank you to all of you for your kind words, thoughts, calls, cards and prayers during my mom's illness. (She's doing very well, and is nearly 100% at this point.) Thank you also to those of you who have been patient with me as during this last month and a half it's taken me a little longer to return calls and e-mails, and I haven't been able to participate in events and committees as fully as I normally do. People ask me all the time why I chose to move back home, to a small town, and live 30 miles from my office. The answer is you. Knowing that I am surrounded by a community of such caring individuals means so much to me, and I'm sure to you as well, which is why so many of us choose Franklinton. This little town has one great big heart – and I'm ever thankful for it.

Elic

You Can Recycle Your CFL Bulbs Right Here!

CFLs and tube fluorescent lights (like those found in Town Hall and the Town Hall Annex) contain mercury, which is a dangerous element that can poison humans and animals with even the slightest of contact. Proper disposal of such semi-hazardous material is key to ensuring a safe living and working environment. Currently, there are programs in our region for recycling mercury bulbs, including Home Depot's CFL recycling program, and Wake County's bulb site in Knightdale. However, there really is nothing of convenience to the citizens of Franklin County, much less Franklinton, which is what prompted the Town to create, for Town residents, a mercury bulb recycling program. This program does not require residents to pay an extra fee or a recycling fee, as many recycling programs do, and is easy to use.

Town residents who have CFLs that have burned out may bring them to Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm) to be recycled. If you have a fluorescent tube light, you may bring it (or them) to the Public Works Department on S. Chavis St. on Tuesdays between 7:00am and 9:00am. Please help us protect your living environment and the residents of our Town by correctly disposing of mercury based light bulbs and using this new Town service!

Summer Safety Tips



Movies & Stars on Main



Summer is the time for outdoor fun and relaxation. Common summertime activities like swimming, biking, skating, gardening, picnicking, or just sitting in the sun can create safety hazards if not approached with care. The following tips are some simple ways you can stay safe and avoid the risk created by your fun in the sun time.

Preventing Heat-Related Illness

- * Dress for the heat
- * Drink plenty of water
- * Take regular breaks
- * Eat small meals and eat more often (avoid foods high in protein which increases metabolic heat)

Bug Safety

- * Avoid scented hair & skin care product when planning to be outdoors
- * Use insect repellent (products containing DEET are most effective against ticks & mosquitoes)
- * Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate (stagnant water, blooming flowers, uncovered foods)
- * If you experience flu like symptoms (head ache, fever, body aches) after finding a tick on your body contact your physician for professional care

Remember stay safe & have fun this summer!

ADOPT a STREET

If you are looking for a way to help out your community, why not adopt a street? It's a great way to show your pride by cleaning up your street, and all it cost is a little bit of your time. The Town even provides all of supplies for litter collection. You provide the labor and get your name on a street sign to boot! Contact Town Hall at 919-494-2520 for more information.

REMINDER

Grass Season is Here!

Please be kind to your neighbors and maintain your yards so that grass does not exceed 10" in height.

THANK YOU!

The Franklinton URC has again planned to host **Movies on Main** this year, and will again partner with the Franklinton Arts Alive Committee to host **Stars on Main!** The two events will take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Movies will be shown on Main Street in the public parking area.

Stars on Main will again be hosted by the Arts Alive Committee, and will begin at 6:30pm. Three finalists will be named at each night of competition, and prize packs will be given. All finalists will be invited back for **Finals Night on August 28**. The grand prize winner will receive a \$250 check! Additional prizes may be awarded.

July 24
August 14
August 28

Kung-Fu Panda
Up!
The Fantastic Mr. Fox

FIND THE LADYBUG, WIN A PRIZE!

If you find the picture of a ladybug in this edition, come to Town Hall or email contest@franklintonnc.us to register to win a \$50 gift card to Food Lion! All entries must include Name, Phone Number and Location of the ladybug. Entries must be received by September 21st at 5:00 pm. Winners will be drawn from correct entries and announced at the Franklinton Board of Commissioners meeting on September 21st.

GOOD LUCK!

Important Dates to Remember

Township Chamber	6:00 pm	1 st Monday
Planning Board	7:00 pm	3 rd Monday
Board of Commissioners	7:00 pm	3 rd Tuesday
Tree Committee		4 th Tuesday
URC Meetings	6:30 pm	1 st Thursday
Arts Alive		3 rd Thursday
Movies & Stars on Main	2nd & 4th Saturday Evenings	
National Night Out	August 7, 2010	12 pm ~ 5 pm
Labor Day	September 6, 2010	Town Hall Closed
Frankenfest on Main	October 30, 2010	Main Street
Trick or Treat	October 30, 2010	6 pm ~ 8 pm

Town of Franklinton

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CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB
www.franklintonnc.us

HIGH SPEED RAIL PUBLIC HEARING FHS GYM JULY 29TH 5 PM - 7 PM



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2010

The Franklinton Police Department will hold its 19th annual observance of National Night Out on Saturday, August 7, 2010. National Night Out will move to the Franklinton Elementary School Playground and will be held from 12pm - 5pm. **Please note this is a different date than we normally celebrate. We are hosting the event on a Saturday this year in hopes that as many of our citizens as possible can participate!** There will be lots of activities for everyone in the family to enjoy! Come out and join us!

Franklinton is one of the 10,000+ communities that were involved in observing National Night Out in 2010. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watches and is an effort to heighten crime prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The event began in Franklinton in 1992 with residents being encouraged to turn on their porch lights and come outside, while officers made visits to as many residents as possible. Participation was so overwhelming that "Black Parties" had to be organized to so that officers could meet more citizens. In 2006, the Town boasted eight "Black Parties" which, to say the least, afforded officers, elected officials, and staff little time for meaningful interaction at each host site. With this in mind, the next year the Town organized one big event which was held at the Franklinton Park. This brought all of our citizens together at one location and allowed all of our police, fire, rescue and town officials an opportunity to meet and get to know our citizens.

Our community has been very supportive of National Night Out and this event would certainly not be possible if it were not for the gracious volunteers who organize and donate their time for this event as well as our local merchants who donate door prizes. Proceeds from raffle tickets support Police Community Outreach programs. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation for this event please contact Town Hall at 919-494-2520.

