

Community Notes

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

Declaratory Action Public Information Session

By now, you are likely aware that the Town of Franklinton on January 26, 2011 filed a declaratory action against Franklin County regarding the 1982 Water Contract. To find out more about why the Board of Commissioners has taken this action, and about the events leading to this action, please plan to attend an information session on **Thursday, February 17, 2011** at 7:00pm at the Franklinton Town Hall Annex. The Annex is located at 5 W. Mason St. You may view the full text of this action at www.franklintonnc.us.



Town Requests Public Input on Budget Through Outreach



At the 2011 Board Retreat, Mayor Elic Senter shared a proposal with the Franklinton Board of Commissioners regarding citizen outreach connected to the Town's budget. The proposal, approved by the Board at the retreat, includes several components to share information and gather citizen input about the Budget. In February, short videos about different sections of the budget will be created. These videos will be posted on the Town's website and aired on the Town's public access channel, Channel 10, later in the spring.

The Town will also be creating two brochures – one to explain how the budget is created, and one to explain how the Town gains income and incurs expenses. Also a part of this plan is a Budget Advisory Committee. You can read more about the FBAC in another article in this edition of *Community Notes*.

Town Creates Budget Advisory Committee

At the 2011 Board Retreat, the Franklinton Board of Commissioners created a Budget Advisory Committee. Designed to provide the Board with citizen input regarding the Town's budget, the FBAC will meet three times. The meeting schedule will include:

- * March 21 – Understanding the Town's Budget and Budgeting Process
- * March 31 – Asking Questions, Setting Priorities
- * April 5 – Forming Recommendations on the Budget

Each meeting will take place at 7:00pm at the Town Hall Annex. Applications are available online at www.franklintonnc.us and at Town Hall (7 W. Mason St.). To have an application mailed to you, please call 919-494-2520.

In this edition as well, you will find a short survey regarding budget priorities. **Please** take an opportunity to share your thoughts regarding the Town's budget by completing this short survey. In addition, look for a 'primer' on the Town's budget to be published in the Spring edition of *Community Notes*. In that edition, there will also be information about Community Meetings to discuss the preliminary budget proposal and gather further citizen feedback. Public hearings will be held in late May and early June in different areas of Town to gain even more feedback from you, our citizens. Please keep an eye out for the next edition of *Community Notes*, as well as coverage in *The Franklin Times* and *The Franklin Weekly* for more information.



Mayors Message...

When was the last time you saw snow at Christmas? I can tell you this much – not in my lifetime! But there it was, on Christmas Day. It was wonderful...until I woke up the next morning and realized we had nearly a foot. But lo and behold, there was Public Works Director Raymond Bragg and his crew, cleaning our streets. Speaking from experience of driving that day, Franklinton's streets were the clearest in the land! Our crews even made sure that NC 56 and US 1-A (Main Street) were clear throughout our extra-territorial jurisdiction so that the hill by the Town Water Plant and the hills along Main Street were safe for travel. Though I hope you didn't have to travel that day – if you did, you likely noticed, too!

This year is off to a fast start. Where did the time go? It's

(Continued from page 1)

February! How did we already lose a month? That's one I can't answer, but it sure is here. It seems like just yesterday I was learning how the Town government operates, and here we are more than three years later! It's been my privilege to serve you as your mayor for these past three years. This is traditionally the time when resolutions are created to do great things – and for me, this year is no different. We have resolved to ensure that there is more public input in our budgeting process – and more opportunities for information. To that end, you'll read about our budget education and outreach plan further in this edition of *Community Notes*. I, along with our Board and staff continue to work with the NC Rail Division and CAMPO, our transportation planning organization, to ensure that Franklinton is affected in the least adverse way possible by any proposed rail lines through our community.

I've also resolved to become a bit healthier. I'm not doing so well on that one yet. Hardee's is finally open...and so is my wallet, ensuring that the hand breaded chicken tenders don't wait for a buyer for too long. However – I also know that I can't do that much longer, or I won't be able to walk up a flight of steps! So I'm excited about *Get Fit Franklinton*, an ad hoc committee that is working to create a fitness program for our community to promote not only physical fitness but also healthful living. Look for more information about that in the spring edition of *Community Notes*, but hold May 7 – we're kicking it off then!

Please take a moment to complete the survey you'll find in this newsletter. Your feedback is crucial. We can't make informed decisions without your help. As well, the members of your Board of Commissioners look to hear from you on important issues. Please feel free to call or e-mails us. Our information is found on the back page. Additionally, though I've published it here before, my contact number is 919-702-4814. Please feel free to call with your concerns. I may not be able to address them immediately, but I'll do my best.

I'm looking forward to 2011. It's going to be a great year! (And maybe...just maybe...some of us will finally finish our home renovations... ☺)

Happy New Year!



Elic

Survey on Budget Priorities

Please take a moment to take this brief survey regarding your thoughts on priorities in the 2011-12 Town Budget.

Would you be willing to switch from backyard garbage pickup to curbside pickup if your sanitation fee decreased? Yes No (Circle one)

Please rate the following in order of priority for funding in the Town's budget. (Note – all of these items will receive funding; however, funds may have to be cut in certain areas due to budget constraints. Your input will help determine where those cuts occur if needed.)

1 – Low Priority 3 – Medium Priority 5 – High Priority

- _____ Public Works
- _____ Public Safety (Police)
- _____ Streets and Sidewalks (Repair)
- _____ Community Programs
(July 4, Recreation Assoc., *OneFranklinton*)
- _____ Code (Ordinance) Enforcement
- _____ Animal Control

Please mail your survey to Budget Survey, PO Box 309, Franklinton, NC 27525; visit www.franklintonnc.us and click 'Survey Response' to e-mail your responses, or drop your survey by Town Hall, 7 W. Mason St. between 8:30am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Survey deadline is March 25, 2011. Thank you for your input!

What is Get Fit Franklinton?

In early 2010, Franklinton Mayor Elic Senter formed an ad hoc committee to begin working on a grant application for a program of the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund called *FitCommunities*. After meeting the first three months of the year, the NCHWTF discontinued the grant program component of *FitCommunities*. However, the committee decided to move forward, and create a program that would be beneficial to Franklinton residents. From those meetings and conversations, *Get Fit Franklinton* was born!

In this edition of *Community Notes*, you will find the new *Get Fit Franklinton* walking program brochure. This brochure contains tips and tricks on beginning a walking program to improve your health, and also includes a map of Franklinton with specific routes for walking established. Routes vary in length, and routes will eventually be marked with signs. The walking program of *Get Fit Franklinton* is the first of a multi-faceted approach to providing opportunities for our citizens to improve their health. The next step? The *Get Fit Franklinton* Kickoff Event, to be held on May 7, 2011 in downtown Franklinton! The Kickoff Event will be held from 9am - 1pm, and will offer over 40 vendors as part of a community health fair, including exercise and cooking demonstrations, group activities, and a walk/run with different distances. The registration forms to be a health fair vendor OR to participate in the walk/run can be found online at www.franklintonnc.us beginning March 1, 2011! Look for more information in the Spring edition of *Community Notes*!

WHAT'S YOUR BOARD DOING.....

Over the past several months, members of your Board of Commissioners have been very active in learning and leading our community. A representative from the Franklinton Board of Commissioners serves on the Board of Directors of the Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments, which meets monthly; on the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (a transportation planning committee), which also meets monthly; and the Franklin County Economic Development Commission, which meets semi-monthly. Board members have represented you on the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Members of your Board have also been to several training opportunities over the past several months. Those trainings included *Resolving Public Disputes*, *Inviting Collaboration Among the Community*, *Budgeting in Tough Economic Times*, and *Engaging the Public in the Budgeting Process*. As always, we endeavor to hear from you, our citizens as well. Board members were out and about during several recent local events, including Frankenfest on Main and the Communitywide Yard Sale. Anytime an issue or concern arises, please don't hesitate to contact a member of your Board of Commissioners. We are elected to serve you!

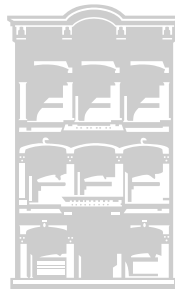


Do Your Part to Fight Crime - Lock Your Cars & Homes!

Board Adopts Code of Ethics

In **November 2010**, the Franklinton Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a Code of Ethics which will govern the individual actions of Board members from that date forward. In 2009, the NC General Assembly passed legislation requiring all elected officials (as well as those who serve on appointed boards or commissions that are legislative or quasi-judicial) to have two hours of training in ethics, and for each Board to adopt a code of ethics by January 1, 2011. In addition, all elected officials must continue to take two hours of ethics training every two years for as long as they hold office. This legislation applies to all elected officials in the State of North Carolina.

Interested in Franklinton's Board of Commissioners Code of Ethics? Visit www.franklintonnc.us and click on *Town Government*. The Code of Ethics can be found as a link on that page. You can also obtain a copy from Town Hall, which is open Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm (or you can request one be mailed to you).



URC Announces Façade Grant Program

One of the major focus areas of the Franklinton Uptown Revitalization Committee when it began was the appearance of the streetscape along Main Street and in the downtown/uptown area. After three years of fundraising and the hard work of a subcommittee in developing guidelines and an application, the Franklinton URC Façade Grant Program is ready to roll out! Those who own properties in the area served by the Franklinton URC (our historical downtown business district) are eligible to apply for a 50% matching grant (up to a \$2,000 reimbursement) to replace, upgrade, or repair the exterior façade of their property. The grants will be awarded quarterly, with applications due mid-quarter on a rolling deadline basis. Deadlines for 2011 are February 28, May 31, August 31, and November 30. Awards will be announced at the regular meetings of the Franklinton Board of Commissioners in April, July, October, and January following the application deadlines, and winners will be notified by mail prior to the public announcements. Those interested in applying can find the application online starting January 4, 2011 at www.franklintonnc.us, or at Town Hall, 7 W. Mason St., Franklinton, NC. (You can also call Town Hall at 494-2520.)

HALLOWEEN EVENTS IN FRANKLINTON FOR ALL AGES!



Downtown Franklinton came alive on October 30th in celebration of Halloween! Over 1,000 people from 4 months to 80 years old came out to participate in the annual Franklinton Costume Contest, sponsored this year by Frugals Fun Center. (Photos of the contestants can be found at www.franklintonnc.us under Photo Galleries.) There were nearly 200 contestants for the Costume Contest this year – which nearly **DOUBLES** last year's participants! Judging the contestants was no easy task this year, either – but our appreciation goes out to the judges who not only selected the winning contestants for the Costume Contest and the Pumpkin Pageant. This year's Pumpkin Pageant was a wonderful celebration of decorative art, hosted in front of Franklinton High School throughout the day of Frankenfest on Main, and lit up brightly at night for the Halloween events. Downtown businesses remained open for the event and gave out candy during trick or treating. Visitors from other communities came to join in our festivities this year, as well. Who knows – Franklinton may very well become a destination for our area's Halloween festivities in years to come! The Franklinton Arts Alive Committee would like to again thank those who participated, the judges who selected the winners.



Holidays in Franklinton a Warm Celebration of Community

Year after year, the Franklinton Arts Alive Committee endeavors to bring our community together during the holidays through several celebrations. This year proved no different!

On December 11-12, Arts Alive hosted the third annual *Progress Energy Franklinton Holiday Lights Tour*. Sponsored again this year by Progress Energy, the guided tours of decorated homes in the Franklinton area brings out the holiday spirit in all of us. Each tour lasted about 45 minutes because we had so many tour participants this year! As in previous years, maps for the tour were made available at Town Hall on the day of the Franklinton Christmas Parade. Our thanks again to Progress Energy for sponsoring this community event, and to all of you who participated!



E-MAIL CONTEST ON HOLD

Due to the Town's current budget situation, in December, the Board of Commissioners adopted several budget amendments, including a sizable fund balance (savings) appropriation. Given this action and other current conditions, we were forced to suspend the gift card drawing originally scheduled for December. However – as soon as conditions improve, there **will** be a gift card drawing! So – don't count it out just yet! And please – continue sharing your e-mail addresses with us!

RECYCLE

Bins are located in the municipal parking lot beside the magistrate's office.

Frankenfest on Main 2010 Huge Success!

Four years in, and Frankenfest on Main is bigger than ever! In spite of several challenges that occurred over the course of the planning stages, this year's event was a raving success according to our vendors and those who visited during the event. Participants came from areas such as Henderson, Oxford, Clayton, Garner, Louisburg, Wake Forest, Raleigh, Cary, Apex, Warrenton, and some from as far away as southern Virginia and northern South Carolina! Vendors from all across North Carolina were with us to share their wares, as were non-profit agencies from our region to share information.

Due to many unfortunate circumstances, the Franklinton URC didn't begin its regular planning for Frankenfest on Main until late July. However, the URC didn't let that stop them from moving forward with a fantastic event! This year, the special section in the *Franklin Times* and the *Franklin Weekly* (formerly known as the *Wake Weekly*) had more advertisers than ever before. Frankenfest on Main was fortunate to boast four sponsors this year – Hampton Village Apartments of Youngsville, Franklin Regional Medical Center, Teague Motorsports, and PSNC Energy. With the support of these sponsors and the Franklin County Tourism Development Authority, the Franklinton URC was able to ensure that there were activities for kids, free live entertainment throughout the day, and a great community celebration for the citizens of Franklinton.

There was also the great bonus of several vendors noting that there were opportunities in downtown Franklinton to locate a business! We are hopeful that those vendors will follow up – because we will certainly be following up with them! This year's event raised funds for the Franklinton URC to continue moving forward with programs such as the façade grant program (which you'll read more about in this edition of *Community Notes*), advertising for our downtown businesses, and future events to bring people to the downtown area. To all of you – the nearly 3,000 of you – who came to visit Frankenfest on Main, THANK YOU! We are looking forward to next year!

How Does a Board of Commissioners Meeting Work?

Many of our citizens come to meetings of the Franklinton Board of Commissioners wishing to express a concern or a compliment, but are unsure of how the process works. The Franklinton Board of Commissioners utilizes Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) as its operational procedure during formal Board meetings. This includes regular meetings, special called meetings and emergency meetings. During these meetings, there is a formal agenda; however, only the regular meeting includes a section for Public Comment. The Public Comment portion of the regular meeting agenda is when citizens and others may express opinions on a variety of topics. However, within the guidelines of meeting procedure, the Public Comment period is for the public to make comments; the Board does not reply to those comments, as the period of time is for the Board to *receive* comments. Generally, the Board takes those concerns which need a response and provides such in writing as soon as possible.

Due to this procedure, as a general rule the Board does not engender public comment during other portions of the meeting. However, this is different from a Board *workshop*. A *workshop* is a meeting of the Board of Commissioners during which no vote may be taken. It is a time in which the Board receives information from staff members or external groups, and is able to ask questions and gain information before engaging in formal discussions and deliberations.

Anyone wishing to participate in a meeting during the Public Comment session can do so by signing up ahead of time (by calling 494-2520) or by signing up at the start of the Board meeting. Board of Commissioners meetings take place on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm at the Franklinton Town Hall Annex, 5 W. Mason St., in Franklinton. This is the regular meeting date and time established by the Board. Not only is public participation invited, it is encouraged – we hope to see you there!



Senior Games 2011

Senior Games is a holistic approach to keeping the body, mind, and spirit fit while enjoying the company of friends, family, spectators, and volunteers.

It's time to prepare for Senior Games 2011! The North Carolina Senior Games began in 1983. Since that first year, Senior Games has grown to include over 60,000 participants in 54 Local Games Programs which includes all 100 counties across our state. Region K is the Local Games Program which includes Franklin, Vance, Granville, Warren, and Person Counties.

At the beginning of February, entry packets will be available at the Senior Centers for individuals wishing to take part in the 2011 Senior Games. To be eligible, you must be 55 years of age or better on or before December 31, 2011, be a resident of one of the counties in Region K (Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, or Warren), and have been a North Carolina resident for a minimum of three consecutive months of the year. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 4, 2011 by 5:00pm. The opening ceremony to kick off this year's games will be March 31, 2011.

Some of the activities included in the Senior Games are: Basketball Shooting; Horseshoes; Tennis Singles & Doubles; Shuffleboard; Cycling; Golf Tournament; Football & Softball Throw; Shot Put; Discus; Running & Standing Long Jump; Spin Casting; 100M, 400M, & 1500M Run; Bowling Singles, Doubles, & Mixed Doubles; Badminton Singles & Doubles; Silverstriders Fun Walk; Table Tennis; Croquet; Bocce; and Billiards. Silver Arts & Awards is a major component of Senior Games that celebrates creative expression in Heritage Arts, Literary Arts, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts.

Franklin County will be hosting the Golf Tournament at Bull Creek Golf Course; Bowling Singles, Double, & Mixed Doubles at Buffalo Lanes in North Raleigh; and the 2011 Silver Arts & Awards.

Pick up your entry packet in February at the Franklinton Senior Center and join the 2011 Senior Games for fitness, fun, and fellowship!

Article submitted by Patrick Woods, Senior Center Director

Police Department Increases Patrols



Due to the recent increase of car and home break-ins, the Franklinton Police Department will be increasing their patrols in residential areas. During the hours of 12 Midnight and 4AM, officers will be conducting additional patrols looking for people who do not belong in the community.

Officer also will be conducting random foot patrols looking for evidence of criminal activity. While conducting these patrols, if the officer finds a security concern related to a citizens property, the officer will leave their business card with a contact number. This will allow the officer to discuss their concerns with you so that together you can come up with the best solution.

Officers will randomly select areas of town to increase their patrols. If a citizen has a concern that they would like addressed, please feel free to call to the police department and speak with an officer. Together working as a team, we will be able to keep our town safe and secure.

Chief John Green, Jr.

Town of Franklinton

7 WEST MASON STREET
Post Office Box 309
Franklinton, North Carolina 27525

Phone: 919-494-2520
Fax: 919-494-7804



TOWN DIRECTORY

Mayor Elic A. Senter
esenter@franklintonnc.us 494-2520

Larry Carver, Town Manager
townmanager@franklintonnc.us 494-2888

Commissioner John Allers
jallers@franklintonnc.us

Commissioner Al Barbour
abarbour@franklintonnc.us

Commissioner Joe Cutchins
jcutchins@franklintonnc.us

Commissioner Anita Fuller
afuller@franklintonnc.us

Commissioner Art Wright
awright@franklintonnc.us

Raymond Bragg, Public Works Dir.
rbragg@franklintonnc.us 494-5055

Wendy Gilliam, Asst. Town Clerk
wgilliam@franklintonnc.us 494-2520

John Green, Chief of Police
jgreen@franklintonnc.us 494-2151

Henry Gupton, Code Enforcement
hgupton@franklintonnc.us 494-2520

Frank Efird, Water Plant Super.
fefird@franklintonnc.us 494-2218

Tammy Ray, Zoning Administrator
tray@franklintonnc.us 494-2520

Kim Worley, Town Clerk
kworley@franklintonnc.us 494-2520

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB
www.franklintonnc.us

The Franklinton Board of Commissioners

Meet the 3rd Tuesday of Every Month.

Citizens are Invited to Attend.



OneFranklinton Mark Your Calendar

In an effort to bring our community volunteers together under one umbrella, to ease the burden of multiple meetings, and to streamline our efforts to improve Franklinton for the benefit of all citizens, several Town Committees have joined together to form **OneFranklinton**. Those committees include the Franklinton Uptown Revitalization Committee, the Franklinton Arts Alive Committee, the Town of Franklinton Channel 10 (Public Access) Committee, and the Franklinton Beautification Committee.

The mission and vision of **OneFranklinton** will integrate all of the functionalities of the committees and organizations (and their programs). **OneFranklinton** will be responsible for a Spring Festival, Movies on Main, the Communitywide Yard Sale, Downtown Coordinated Business Advertising, the Franklinton Area Business Directory, Frankenfest on Main, the Progress Energy Holiday Lights Tour, the Community Holiday Concert, care of the planters around Franklinton, programming for Franklinton's public access channel, the downtown Franklinton Streetscape implementation, the downtown Franklinton Façade Grant program, and the Franklinton Historical Museum, among other programs.

If you're interested in any of these program areas, please join us! The next meeting of **OneFranklinton** will be held on February 10 at the Franklinton Town Hall Annex, 5 West Mason Street, at 7:00pm. **OneFranklinton** meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex. We hope to see you there!

February 10 – OneFranklinton Meeting

February 15 – Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 17 – Declaratory Action Information Session

February 22 – Tree Committee Meeting

February 25 – Budget Advisory Committee Applications Due

March 10 – OneFranklinton Meeting

March 15 – Board of Commissioners Meeting

March 25 – Budget Survey Deadline