



The Village Record

The Newsletter of
The Village of Flat Rock
Singleton Centre
Flat Rock, North Carolina
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Volume 9 Number 4

May 2004

2004 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Save the date of **SATURDAY, MAY 8th**, for this year's **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!!** The Village Council will again host an old-fashioned ICE CREAM SOCIAL on the grounds of the Flat Rock Playhouse.

Scott Treadway has consented to be our Master Of Ceremonies so you know it will be a fun day. There will be lots of ice cream (hand dipped by our own Council members), games, face painting and entertainment.

Come from 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the afternoon. It's a great way to relax, indulge in some great ice cream and visit with your neighbors.

If by any chance it should rain on Saturday, the rain date will be the following day. We know this is Mother's Day but you can bring the whole family for dessert!

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please be sure to complete and return the Flat Rock Strategic Growth Master Plan Citizen Survey you recently received, by April 26. This is YOUR opportunity to

comment on the challenges of growth and change that will inevitably affect everyone in the Village.

The Flat Rock Village Community Planning Group needs and wants your input to help determine the sense of the Community regarding the challenges facing us, the priority regarding each as well as how we will best meet the challenges of change facing Flat Rock Village.

Please also plan to attend the 4:00 PM, May 4 public meeting at the Youth Activity Building at Bonclarken in Flat Rock. Preliminary Survey results will be presented and accompanied by an open discussion period. To reach the meeting location, enter Bonclarken from Greenville Highway (US Highway 25) and follow the signs.

As mentioned in the February edition of The Village Record, the Village Council established the ad hoc Community Planning Group to identify, study and understand the challenges facing our Village and how to successfully meet them. The process is now well underway. The Citizen Survey was sent to seek the input of the stake holders in the community, including home and property owners, businesses,

established major committees (e.g., Planning Board, Greenways Committee, Traffic and Safety Advisory Board, Historic Flat Rock) and other major establishments, such as the Flat Rock Playhouse, Carl Sandburg Home and the Merchants Association.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Ray E. Shaw, Jr.

Since the February issue of the Village Record, several notable actions have taken place or are underway. A public meeting on a Continuing Care Retirement Center (CCRC) took place at the council meeting on March 11th. Over 100 of our citizens attended that meeting with some twenty (20), including five (5) council members, speaking on the issue.



New Council Member being sworn in

A new council member, Dave Bucher, has been sworn into office. Dave had served as a zoning administrator and brings a world of knowledge and experience to the council. We are glad to have Dave on board.

Bruce Recker is moving along with the community planning group to develop a strategic plan for the village. Meetings with stakeholders and consultant, Land Design,

have taken place. Public meetings and a questionnaire will follow. Please take time to answer the questionnaire and let your council know what you are thinking and what you favor.

Design work for the renovation of the Stradley-Jones house continues with bids for construction and renovation expected in early May. Construction would begin in June with an anticipated completion date in December.

As this newsletter goes to press the issue of the distribution of sales tax is still not resolved. The council did agree in principle to a proposal by the county commissioners whereby the present method of distribution, which is on a per capita basis, will be retained for two more years. The village would make payments to the county of \$137,243 and \$205,864 in FY 04-05 and FY 05-06 respectfully. Beginning with FY 06-07, the method of distribution will likely change to an ad valorem basis.

On a supportive note let me say “thank you” to a number of our “silent majority” who were not so silent when they appeared at the county commissioners’ meetings and spoke out against the change in the method of sales tax distribution. They also wrote letters to the editor and took on the editorial staff of the Times-News that strongly supported the change in the sales tax distribution method. Because of their efforts, I believe that we will be able to reach a compromise that will return a portion of the sales tax that our citizens pay back to the village. Your council is working hard on this.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE UPDATE

Flat Rock Middle School Traffic. Congestion – the solution to daily opening and closing traffic back-up on West Blue Ridge has stalled, due to lack of funds in the County budget, further complicated by retirement of 2 key County managers. We continue to press on! Meantime be aware that traffic backs up and stops from 7:30 to 8:00 AM and from 2:45 to 3:30 PM.

Speed Control. Village Attorney advises that recommended volunteer citizen Speed Monitor program is too risky --- such as volunteer injury, angered physically abusive monitored driver, etc. Necessary insurance cost would be "off the charts". VFR Council turned down the program in view of potential high risks. Subject continues a high priority, with TSAC preparing several alternatives for review by the Council. Citizens, please be a good example to all drivers, resident and non-resident; watch your speed!

Route Number Changes. NCDOT has begun to change significant quantity of signs --- which among others, will see route 25 bypassing Flat Rock, replaced instead by route 225 through VFR. These changes will thus redirect some traffic from traveling through VFR.

More Speed Control. NCDOT has been requested to change existing speed limit signs on route 25, between Little River Road and West Blue Ridge Road, from 35mph to 25 mph.

Pole Replacement Project. Duke Power is replacing utility poles on parts of route 25, to increase power to Flat Rock. Current poles cannot handle the increased wiring. When Duke is finished, Bell South and Mediacom have to do their thing on the new poles. When completed, the former adjacent poles

will be removed. Patience please!

Road Striping. NCDOT recognizes the deteriorating lines on our roads, and VFR is on the Spring schedule --- sooner the better!

Rutledge Road. While not the only one, this road we and NCDOT agree has for sometime needed rehabilitation more than others. NCDOT is developing a plan to do so. Timing is not clear, but NCDOT recognizes the high priority VFR places on this need.

Council Liaison. TSAC is pleased that recently appointed Councilman Dave Bucher has been assigned as liaison for TSAC/ Council. We welcome Dave aboard!

WELCOME TO FLAT ROCK!!!

The Village of Flat Rock extends a warm welcome to all of you who have recently moved here.

The Village's Welcome Committee is in the process of being revamped and we need your help. If you have recently relocated to the Village of Flat Rock, please contact the Chair of the Committee Carol Andrews at 697-0208.

We are planning periodic receptions at the Village Hall so that the new residents have an opportunity to meet the Mayor, the office staff, learn a bit about how the Village operates and get acquainted with other new residents. You will also have a chance, if you are so inclined to become a volunteer on one of the Village's many committees.

When all the changes are in place, you will be contacted.

The Mayor and the Council members are pleased that you have chosen to live in Flat Rock.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

All monthly **Council Meetings** are scheduled for the **second Thursday** of each month, and will start at 9:30 AM.

Agenda Workshops are scheduled to start at 9:30 AM on the **Monday** 10 days prior to the Council Meeting, unless that Monday falls on a holiday.

The Planning Board meets the **first Tuesday** of each month from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM.

The Board of Adjustment meets the **first Tuesday** of each month at 3:00 PM (if there are Agenda items).

The **Village of Flat Rock** office hours are 9:00 AM—4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Zoning Administration office hours are from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The deadline for articles to be included in the August issue of "The Village Record" is Thursday, July 8th .

The Village of Flat Rock
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Address Service Requested

Village Directory

Mayor:

Ray E. Shaw, Jr. 698-2449

Council Members:

District 1

Robert V. Staton 696-4020

Nick Weedman 693-5300

District 2

Judy M. Boleman, Vice Mayor 698-8912

David Bucher 696-3268

District 3

Terry A. Hicks 697-9022

Donald E. Roark 697-2068

Village Clerk:

Rowena M. Sweezy 697-8100

Administrative Assistant:

Michelle D. Parker 697-8100

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