

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 November issue of "The Village Record" is Thursday, January 13th .

Village of Flat Rock
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Address Service Requested

Village Directory

Mayor:
Ray E. Shaw, Jr. 698-2449

Council Members:
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Robert V. Staton 696-4020
Nick Weedman 693-5300

District 2
Judy M. Boleman, Vice Mayor 698-8912
David Bucher 696-3269

District 3
Terry A. Hicks 697-9022
Donald E. Roark 697-2068

Village Clerk:
Rowena M. Sweezy 697-8100

Deputy Village Clerk:
Michelle Hill 697-8100

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The Village Record

The Newsletter of
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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Ray E. Shaw, Jr.

Your Council continues to move forward on issues and projects of interest and concern to our citizens. The Community Planning effort involving public meetings, citizen input and a final report from LandDesign is complete. The next phase will consist of prioritizing the recommendations and implementing those recommendations on a timely and realistic schedule.

Work is well underway at the Stanley-Jones house to renovate it to a Village Hall and the Village government a home of its own. While construction progress has not been as good as we had hoped, we recognize that two hurricanes with the rains and inclement weather have made it impossible to work as much as would normally have been possible. With some good weather the next two

months could see substantial construction progress.

Contractors with NCDOT should be changing highway signs on US-25 to NC-225 this fall. Hopefully this will reduce some traffic coming through Flat Rock and divert it to US-176. The change will renumber current US-25 from the Tuxedo exit through Flat Rock to the current junction with US-176 (at the Fresh Market) to NC-225. Believe it or not, we started on these changes with NCDOT over 4 years ago.

Those volunteers who agreed to serve on a revenue study committee for the Village are due a big "thank you". Their work is important as we have to think of how to fund the Village government if our main source of revenue (sales tax distribution) were to be lost after June 2006.

**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS
VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2ND**

2004 ELECTION

The official Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2004 and we want to encourage everyone to exercise his or her privilege and vote! The polling place will be the Parish Hall at the St. John's in the Wilderness Church on U. S. Highway 25 (Greenville Highway). If you need directions or need a ride to the polls, call the Village Office at 697-8100.

The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on November 2, 2004.

A great number of people are taking advantage of early voting. To participate in this, a no-excuse-needed opportunity, you will need to go to the Henderson County Board of Elections Office at 120 Grove Street between the hours of 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday through October 29th. On Saturday, October 30th, which will be the final day of early voting, the polls will be open on Grove Street from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

If you have any questions about the voting process this year, call the Henderson County Board of Elections at 697-4970.

LITTLE RIVER ROAD "BIKE ROUTE"

Dieter Hammer

Now that Little River Road has been designated a "Bike Route", people traveling on LRR might contemplate the possibility of encountering a bike in their lane just around the next corner. We really need to drive carefully on this winding road.

FLAT ROCK TOMORROW

A Progress Report

*Bruce Recker, Chairperson
Community Planning Group*

This is the first of a series of articles regarding the adoption and implementation of recommendations for the future of our Village resulting from the work of the Community Planning Group (CPG) and our hired consultants, LandDesign, Inc.

First, I'll offer a huge "Thank You" to those citizens who participated in the Citizen Survey (the response rate was a whopping 50+ %) and to the hundreds of you who attended and participated in one or more of the three Public Meetings. The recommendations, as well as the priorities assigned to each, are a direct result of input and critique received from you, the citizens of Flat Rock.

I also extend my heartfelt "Thanks" to your fellow citizen volunteer members of the CPG who worked closely with LandDesign personnel, organized and implemented the Survey and Public Meetings and communicated to you regarding the Survey and Meeting plans.

Since the actual recommendations are too lengthy to include in this issue of The Village Record, I urge you to review them on the Village website (www.villageofflatrock.org). This summary document is brief enough to permit you to review it in less about 15 minutes.

I think you will be pleased that the recommendations do address the issues identified by the actual stakeholders (e.g., citizens, merchants) in the future of Flat Rock.



VILLAGE HALL PROJECT UPDATE

Carolina Specialties Construction Company has begun the construction of the renovation of the Stradley-Jones house and the new Village Hall.

The new Village Hall that contains a meeting facility as well as kitchen, rest room facilities and storage space is now under roof and framed.

Renovation of the Stradley-Jones house has become a more significant project than first anticipated. Due to the fact that at least one and probably two additions to the original house were made in its 170 old life, more extensive renovations have become necessary. The house has been stripped to the studs and it has been determined that the siding will be replaced. This is due to the

fact that a significant portion of the house had only vinyl siding over very basic construction. A low maintenance siding will be used for the whole facility.

Installation of the driveway has had the first phase completed. Access to the facility will be through the adjacent property on which the Blue Ridge Fire Department has a facility. A road way has been cut with an aggregate base laid and this is providing access and parking during the construction project. Paving will be done when the project is essentially complete.

The contractor has lost some time due to the adverse weather of the recent hurricane remnants hit Flat Rock. Completion is still on target for a January completion, however.

GREENWAY GRANT APPROVAL

Barbara Schubert

The Village of Flat Rock's Greenways Committee recently learned it's Village Center Trail project had been awarded two grants. A \$5,000 Adopt-A-Trail grant from the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources (NCDENR) and a \$51,124 grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Enhancement Program will be used to continue sidewalk construction. Contributions from businesses and individuals in Flat Rock have provided the necessary cash match to secure these grants. With approval from NCDOT the construction of the sidewalk from the Old Post Office to the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site should be started in the Spring of 2005.

Organizing in 1999, the Greenways Committee has been working to fund this first trail project through the heart of Flat Rock. With approval from NCDOT the construction of the sidewalk from the Old Post Office to the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site (CSNHS) should be started in Spring 2005. The Village Center Trail sidewalk project will serve as the central link for extensions of a village-wide trail system.

The Greenways Committee is still seeking donations (tax deductible) for extensions of the trail system. Engraved pavers to be used in construction of the sidewalk to the CSNHS can be purchased through the village office. If you are interested please contact the office for information. Flat Rock's beauty can best be appreciated on foot via a safe and scenic walkway system.

ELECTION SIGNS FLAT ROCK ORDINANCE

The following is an excerpt from the Flat Rock Sign Ordinance #5 pertaining to election signs.

"Political signs are permitted provided that; Signs shall not exceed a maximum of sixteen (16) square feet nor six (6) feet in height and shall be located so as not to impair an individual's ability to safely see other vehicles or to see pedestrians at intersections, driveways, crosswalks, or alleys.

Signs may be erected no earlier than the last day on which a candidate must file with the State or County Board of Elections. The signs must be removed within fifteen (15) days after any primary election day as to an unsuccessful primary candidate and within fifteen (15) days after any general election as to all other candidates.



New Village Meeting Hall

Among the issues you'll find addressed are:

- Ensuring that the future growth and development of our Village is in keeping with the expressed desires of the citizenry
- Preservation of the scenic beauty of our roadways
- Traffic flow and safety
- Commercial and residential zoning and setbacks that preserve the character of both residential and commercial areas
- Parking and safe walkways

The adoption of the recommendations of the CPG, as well as their prioritization will be the duty of your elected Village Council.

As progress is made on these issues, implementation tasks will be assigned the various standing boards (e.g., the Planning Board) and Committees (e.g., the Traffic and Safety Committee). Hence, the CPG will cease to exist once the recommendations for Flat Rock Tomorrow are formally adopted.

As progress is made you will be kept informed via articles in the Village Record as well as postings on the Village website.

In closing, I remind you that the goal of the CPG has been to determine what the will of the people of Flat Rock is, so that the growth and change we inevitably will face can be managed in the best interests of all the stakeholders in our beautiful Village.

Michelle Parker weds Trey Hill



Michelle Parker and Trey Hill

Michelle Parker of 8 Providence Drive, Flat Rock, and Robert L. "Trey" Hill III of Flat Rock, N.C., were married Saturday, October 2, 2004, in White Point Gardens, Charleston, S.C.

The bride is the daughter of Dianne Gray of Garner, N.C., and Jerry Parker of Four Oaks, N.C. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Hill, II of Columbus, N.C.

Trevor Baumberger, son of the bride, was child attendant.

The newlyweds planned to honeymoon in Charleston. They plan to live in Flat Rock.

The bride graduated from East Henderson High School. She is Deputy Village Clerk at the Village of Flat Rock offices.

The bridegroom graduated from North Henderson High School. He is Loss Prevention Specialist with Lowe's of Boiling Springs, S.C.

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

The Village is blessed to have so many willing citizens who give of their time and talents to benefit the whole community. The Village Council is sponsoring an event to recognize those that have been active volunteers over the past year or so at a dinner to be held on November 16th at the Kenmore Country Club.

Invitations have been sent so if you have been an active volunteer in the past year or so and have failed to receive an invitation, please let Michelle Hill or Rowena Sweezy at the Village Office know and we will rectify our oversight.

The event will feature a full sit-down dinner preceded by a cash bar. The function will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:45 p.m. No formal program is planned but Mayor Ray E. Shaw, Jr. will have some brief comments to appropriately recognize our volunteers.

If you have an interest in being a Volunteer with the Village of Flat Rock, call Michelle or Rowena at 697-8100 and they will get a Volunteer application to you. We have a great group who volunteer to fill a number of varied roles in the community. If you haven't already, please join us in some aspect of keeping the Village a great place to live!

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR VILLAGE PROJECTS

The Village has need from time to time for volunteers to serve on various committees, study groups, etc. Several articles in this issue of *The Village Record* highlight the service that volunteers provide in an out-

standing manner.

With the Community Planning Group moving from a study mode to making specific recommendations and ultimately on to implementation, it is likely that help will be needed. In addition, standing committees have vacancies occur which need to be filled by qualified and willing volunteers.

To volunteer, you will need to complete an application form. This specifies your areas of interest and will serve to cover you for insurance purposes.

Come to the office to pick up a Volunteer Form or call the office at 697-8100 to have one mailed to you.

KUDZU ATTACK

Jim Holmes

We have just completed the third year of spraying in our attack against kudzu in Flat Rock. From our initial proposal we viewed this as a 3-5 year program as the invasive plant has a root structure that can extend 9 feet down. The program has been voluntary. For those who signed up early in 2002 when we set our deadline to establish a 3 year budget by getting bids, we believe there has been a very dramatic reduction in the plant population on these sites. There have been 2 applications this year. One problem we did not fully anticipate was in just identifying where the plant is. The worst infestations are so obvious that the focus is drawn away from smaller vines even for the property owner. Or a plant comes back in year 3 after apparently being killed in year 1. While the kudzu population is clearly against the ropes, follow-up in years 4 and 5 will probably be needed on a limited scale to assure a KO in a specific site. Any survivors at this stage should prove to be in a very weakened state.

REVENUE STUDY GROUP

(Background: The County Commissioners annually determine how to distribute to eligible municipalities, sales tax revenues that are designated for that purpose. There are two alternates: the per capita basis under which sales tax revenues are distributed on the basis of the population of each municipality; and, the ad valorem basis under which sales tax revenues are distributed on the basis of the amount of property tax collected by each municipality. Under the ad valorem basis, the distribution of sales tax revenues distributed to municipalities is based on the amount of sales tax collected in the prior year. Accordingly, to participate in this program in fiscal year 2006-07, the Village will have had to collect a property tax in the previous year (i.e., 2005-06. Henderson County has traditionally made the distribution on the per capita basis and, under that system, the Village of Flat Rock has gained about \$250,000 per year. Earlier in 2004, the Commissioners, after a long deliberation, announced they would remain with that method for two years and then may likely change to the ad valorem basis. Flat Rock currently has no property tax (one of only about 20 municipalities in North Carolina that doesn't collect a property tax) and thus, would not be eligible for any sales tax distribution if this system was adopted. Accordingly, the Village recently undertook a study to examine alternates available to it in the event there was a change in Sale Tax distribution methods.)

A Revenue Study Group was organized earlier in 2004 following the decision of the County Commissioners to have a two year moratorium in the method that sales tax distribution to municipalities was made. The per capita method has traditionally been used here.

The Revenue Study Group was composed totally of volunteers from Flat Rock. Three groups were formed under the leadership of Council Member Terry Hicks. These were: Annexation, Services, and Sales Tax Collection methodology.

The Annexation group had a charter to look at the cost and the potential benefits of annexation both to residents potentially involved as well as to the Village. The group

did not consider annexation of any particular area leaving that up to the Planning Group, an exiting Flat Rock Village Government committee. The group consisted of Jim Mosakowski, et al and was assisted by Council Member Bob Staton.

The Services group looked at providing additional services such as trash collection and other services by the Village. Under this, residents would receive services which would be paid for through a potential property tax. This committee consisted of Howard Perley, Charlie Williamson, and assisted by Bob Staton.

The Tax Collection group examined the systems used by various municipalities in Henderson County and recommended how to proceed in the event the Village decided to enter the tax collection process. This group was chaired by former Henderson County Commissioner Marilyn Gordon (a relatively new Village resident) and had members including Neil MacLelland, Tom Sheppard, Martha Andrews, Mike Cervini and was assisted by Council Member Nick Weedman.

These groups all have work currently in process. Their efforts will permit the Council to set a future course to determine if the Village needs levy any property tax in order to participate in an ad valorem sales tax distribution method and, if so, how it can best be done.

Again, this demonstrates the value of our volunteer efforts in the Village. The study should be concluded by year end and the Village Council will then decide on a course of action.
