



## Franklin Express Line

Volume 1, Issue 1, 9/14/09

### Welcome

I want to introduce you to Franklin Express Line. Thanks for signing up for these e-mail updates. Please tell your friends and neighbors about the newsletter. Signing up is easy at [www.franklin.ma.us](http://www.franklin.ma.us). Our intent is to keep citizens up-to-date with the activities of your government. Please feel free to e-mail "Ask the Administrator" on our web page with questions, comments, or concerns or call us at 508-520-4949 or stop by the office at 355 East Central Street or e-mail me directly at [jnutting@franklin.ma.us](mailto:jnutting@franklin.ma.us). Your government will only succeed with your help. *Please Let Your Voice Be Heard.*

### Finances

#### FY 2010 Operating Budget

The FY 10 budget of \$88,000,000 is about \$120,000 out of balance (short). I anticipate asking the Town Council to take a vote to balance the budget. This may require further reduction in some non-school department budgets or transfers from other funds. The FY10 budget included a first time ever reduction in Educational Aide (Chapter 70) to Franklin. This is evidence of the real fiscal stress facing our Commonwealth, changes to the formula for calculating aid, and a slowdown in the growth of our student population.

#### Capital Budget

Each year the Town Council adopts a "Capital Budget". The capital plan includes anticipated capital needs for the next six years. These funds are used to purchase fire trucks, police cruisers, technology for the schools and town, DPW vehicles, and building and infrastructure improvements. We will be developing the FY 2010 Capital Budget for the Town Council's review over the next several months. It is critical we fund a capital plan each year in order to prevent a backlog of needs that will place further fiscal stress on our community.

#### Down the Road

The Fiscal Planning Committee will make a presentation to the Town Council updating their fiscal predictions for the coming fiscal years (FY 2011 and beyond.) It should not be a surprise to anyone that we will continue to face fiscal struggles as a commonwealth and a community.

#### Spotlight



*"It should not be a surprise to anyone that we will continue to face fiscal struggles as a Commonwealth and a community."*

### High School Renovation

We are in the beginning stages of developing plans for the rehabilitation of the High School. A committee has been appointed and we are working with the State School Building Authority (SBA) to develop a scope of the rehabilitation. The SBA will generally pay for approximately 31% of eligible costs for a project. Once the scope of the project is agreed upon, we will hire a Project Manager and an Architect to develop schematic plans. The only practical way to pay for this is a Debt Exclusion as has been done for past school projects. The amount and timing of the required public vote(s) is not clear at this time. The impact of most of the debt exclusion would be delayed for several years due to the anticipated construction timeline. Once timing and cost are clearer, we will update you.

### Economic Development—Reconstruction of the Downtown

We received a \$5,000,000 grant from a Federal Transportation Bond for upgrades to the downtown streets. We will begin the design of the project with the goal of construction in 2011. The major focus is to return the downtown streets to two-way traffic, upgrade sidewalks, streetscape design, etc. Public Hearings will be held in conjunction with the design. Undergrounding utilities will be considered.



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### Regional Issues

Regionalization is an opportunity to share services and personnel with the goal of reducing costs and creating efficiencies while maintaining the expected level of services that the citizens expect. Regionalization is often difficult to achieve, but is especially important during tough economic times. For FY 2010, we entered into agreements with the Town of Medway to share a Library Director and Recreation Director. The sharing of these two positions benefits both communities. We will continue to look for other opportunities as they may arise.

### State and Federal Issues

The current issue of most concern is the proposed Storm Water regulations being developed by the EPA and DEP. These proposed regulations could have large cost implications for businesses and the town. For example, new regulations could force non-residential property owners of existing developments to install onsite storm water drainage that meets current standards. We will continue to work with our elected officials to help mitigate some of the hardships these new regulations will impose on our community.

#### Spotlight



*"Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn. ~  
Benjamin Franklin"*

*Get involved in your local  
government.*

### Department News

#### Board of Health

The Board of Health Department is very busy as the flu season approaches with their regular responsibilities of inspecting food establishments, camps, and motels; handling sanitation, hazardous waste and environmental issues; and responding to complaints on housing conditions, daycare facilities, or other inquiries; as well as tracking communicable diseases and food borne illnesses. The department is coordinating with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC, local officials and town and school departments, and local medical personnel and volunteers to produce a plan for addressing the emergence of the H1N1 flu. Visit the Board of Health's page on the town's website for updates and links to important sites such as the Mass Department of Public Health to stay informed. [www.franklin.ma.us](http://www.franklin.ma.us).

### Town Council

The Town Council will be considering proposed changes to the Town's Charter. The Town Charter was last revised in 1995. Some of the changes may be substantial including changing certain elected positions to appointed, and most will be minor or technical corrections. The Council has stated that the proposed changes to the Town's Charter will go before the voters for consideration. To review the current charter, go to [www.franklin.ma.us](http://www.franklin.ma.us) and click on Government and then on Town Charter. For the final report of the Charter Commission, click on the P.D.Q. tab, then Documents.

### Employees

The excellent quality of life in Franklin would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of your employees. I constantly receive thank yous and acknowledgments for good deeds and extraordinary efforts. I wish to thank them for their commitment to servicing the citizens of Franklin.