



Town of Franklin

"A Great Place to Live and Raise a Family"

News: Quick—Accurate—Convenient.

Franklin Express Line

Volume 1, Issue 2, 10/16/09

Welcome

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. 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 you can call us at 508-520-4949, stop by the office at 355 East Central Street, or e-mail me directly at jnutting@franklin.ma.us. Your government will only succeed with your help. *Let Your Voice Be Heard.*

Finances, Finances, Finances

FY 2010 Budget

Recent headlines indicate that State tax revenues are well below their benchmark. The Massachusetts Municipal Association (a statewide organization representing cities and towns) reports: "As feared, September State tax revenues fell far below the monthly benchmark needed to keep the State budget in balance, throwing Massachusetts' State government sharply into the red at the end of the first quarter of fiscal 2010. Monthly tax collections were \$243 million below the benchmark. Most of the loss was due to lower corporate and business tax collections (\$144 million below the benchmark) and lower than expected sales tax collections (\$28 million below the benchmark). So far, for the fiscal year 2010, tax collections are falling \$212 million short of the benchmark.

The House and Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairs have both publicly stated that the September figures were worse than their worst-case scenario projections. Both said that the revenue shortfall is an alarming signal that the fiscal crisis has not ended."

The Governor announced yesterday that he must lower the fiscal 2010 State budget by \$600 million dollars. The Governor will use his Section 9C budget-cutting authority to reduce executive branch agency spending, forcing more State layoffs and program reductions. The Governor cannot reduce the major general municipal aid account (the combined Lottery and Additional Assistance amount) and Chapter 70 Education aid unless he requests from the Legislature expanded 9C powers, as he did last year. However, the Administration has the ability to reduce many other local aid programs including reimbursement accounts and grants. If the Governor renews his call for expanded 9C powers, the Legislature will likely provide him with that authority. Such a request by a Governor has never been denied. Accordingly, the Governor needs to take action to balance the budget.

In light of this news, we have put a hold on filling positions unless they are critical to our operations and are currently developing a plan to meet any current year reduction in State Aid.

High School Renovation

At the October 10 Town Council Meeting, the Council approved \$1,000,000 to hire an Owners Project Manager and Architect to provide a schematic design for the renovations to the High School. Chairman of the School Building Committee, Tom Mercer, estimated the time-line for completing the schematic (initial) design is approximately one year.



Franklin Express Line

Volume 1, Issue 2, 10/16/09, Pg 2

Election Day News—Tuesday November 3rd

All precincts vote at the High School Field House on Oak Street. Voting is from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

The election is for seats on the Town Council, the School Committee, Board of Health, Planning Board, and Board of Assessors.

There are two contested races in this election.

13 people are running for 9 seats on the Town Council.
2 People are running for 1 seat on the Board of Health.
7 people are running for 7 seats on the School Committee.
2 people are running for 2 seats on the Planning Board.
No one is running for 1 seat on the Board of Assessors.

There will be a Candidates Night held on Monday, October 26 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 355 East Central Street. Candidates Night is sponsored by The Town of Franklin, the Milford Daily News/Gazette, Dean College, and the United Regional Chamber of Commerce. The candidates for Town Council and Board of Health will participate.

Your local government is not a spectator sport. It needs your participation.

Spotlight



Did you know that of Franklin's 32,623 population, 19,907 are registered voters?

Of the registered voters, 3,845 voted in the November 2007 Town Election and 3,119 voted in the November 2005 Town Election.

In the May of 2007 Special Election, 8,759 voters approved a \$2,700,000 override and in the Special Election of June 2008, 7,693 voters defeated a \$2,800,000 override.

What We're Up To

[Exit 16/King Street](#)

The project to improve the traffic at Rt. 495/King St. and Constitutional Blvd. has begun. The project will include signals at the end of each exit ramp off of Rt. 495 and a new entrance into the Franklin Industrial Park. The Town's share of the \$3,000,000 project is approximately \$600,000. We set aside the funds five years ago in a special account in anticipation of the project.

[Improvements to the Historic Museum](#)

The conversion of the old Senior Center to the Town's new Historic Museum are on schedule and budget. Work should be complete this winter and the historic artifacts moved in by Spring. We are exploring potential use of the existing building on Washington Street once the renovations are complete. Suggestions are welcome.

[Bandstand Roof on the Town Common](#)

A new roof, funded by a donation, is going on the Bandstand at the Common. It should be completed by the end of the month.