



# Franklin Express Line

Volume 2, Issue 1, 09/22/10

## Welcome "Back"

September is here, kids are back in school, and family vacations are over. The wheels of government tend to spin a little slower during the summer months, but that does not mean we stop doing the people's business. Summertime is spent fixing our roads; prepping, repairing, maintenance of the recreation areas, sports fields, and playgrounds; and fixing and maintaining our buildings and properties. We also take time to examine our budgets for any necessary adjustments and start making financial decisions for the next fiscal year. So, with an eye toward the coming year, we welcome all opportunities to bring your local government to you, to answer questions, address rumors, and explain our financial situation. Feel free to contact me any time to schedule a time to chat or to set up something more formal.



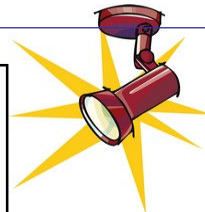
## Spotlight

### You Need to Know:

[Statewide Election: November 2, 2010](#)

Franklin High School - Field House  
Oak Street

*Two questions will be on the November Ballot to change the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.*



There will be two local ballot questions relative to our Town Charter. The two questions are:

- (1) "Shall sections 1 to 7, inclusive, sections 10 to 13, inclusive, and sections 15 to 25, inclusive, of an act passed by the General Court in the year 2010 entitled 'An Act Relative to the Charter of the City known as the Town of Franklin', be accepted?"
- (2) "Shall the Town Treasurer-Collector be appointed, as provided in Sections 8, 9, 14 and 26 of that act, rather than elected?"

### What Does This Mean?

**Question #1 Summary:** The proposed changes to the Franklin Charter in sections 1-7, 10-13, and 15-25 include updates to various provisions to comply with existing law or to reflect current municipal practice; they also include several technical corrections. The major changes are summarized as follows: redefining duties of Town Council Clerk to comply with Open Meeting and Public Records laws, providing the Town Council with the ability to reorganize itself and flexibility in scheduling meetings, clarifying the Town Administrator's authority and duties including his appointing authority, updating the listing of standing committees and appointed positions to eliminate obsolete ones, provision for both a temporary and acting town administrator if the town administrator is absent or the position is vacant, reduction of the finance committee from eleven to nine members and updating of the process for their appointment, updating of annual budget and financial planning processes, elimination of obsolete section governing personnel suspension and removals, and elimination of obsolete transitional provisions in connection with charter's original adoption and prior amendment.

**Question #2 Summary:** The proposed changes contained in Sections 8, 9, 14 and 26 of the Home Rule Legislation eliminate Treasurer-Collector as an elected position and make it an appointed one; the appointment will be made by the Town Administrator and ratified by the Town Council as is presently the case for all other town officers except the Town Clerk. A transitional provision allows the incumbent Treasurer-Collector to continue in office until the end of his elected term.



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### Solid Waste and Recycling News



It has been a little over two months into our new solid waste contract. Early indications are positive for the two barrels with single stream recycling. Compared to the first two months of last year, solid waste collections from the town have been reduced by 100 tons. Recycled materials collections have increased on average by approximately 30%. Despite a rocky first week, things are going smoothly and it seems that most people are happy with their service. Chris White, Solid Waste Coordinator for the Town spearheaded this monumental task and we want to thank him for his efforts.

#### A Few Reminders

- The lids on your barrels must be closed.
- Barrels must be placed 3 feet apart so that the automatic arm can get around the barrels.
- Any trash or recycling placed outside of barrels will not be collected.
- Extra bags are \$3 each and are available by calling the DPW at the number below.
- Each trash and recycling cart has an electronic identification tag embedded in it that identifies the address it belongs at. Please contact the DPW for lost, stolen, or damaged carts.

Recycling at the Beaver Street Recycling Center is available with a Permit. Permits cost \$20.00 and are valid July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Permits are available at the DPW Administration Building at 257 Fisher Street, the Town Clerk's Office at 355 East Central Street and at the Recycling Center during open hours. Beaver Street Recycling Center on Tuesdays 12-3, Fridays 8-3, and Saturdays 8-3. **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

**DPW: 508-553-5500      WASTE MANAGEMENT: 800-972-4545**

### High School Renovations - Update

We are very close to signing a contract with an architect. The School Building Authority requires a Feasibility Study be done to determine existing conditions, building options, and preliminary cost estimates. The Architect will perform the study and then produce a Schematic Design. The SBA must approve and once that is received it will be brought to the voters to decide if they want to go forward with the project.

### Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Grant Awards Still Available - 1st Come, 1st Serve

#### Home Ownership Opportunity Program—Down Payment Grants for 1st Time Home Buyers

The Housing Trust is providing up to \$480,000 in grants to **income and asset qualified households** to purchase homes in Franklin, MA. The homes purchased will be "deed restricted" in perpetuity. These are Grants and not Loans and under most circumstances will not be paid back.

**Maximum Grant amounts (based on home purchased):**  
**(1) bedroom - \$45,000, (2) bedroom - \$60,000, (3+) bedroom - \$80,000.**

Contact Maxine at 508-520-4949 or [mkinhart@franklin.ma.us](mailto:mkinhart@franklin.ma.us).

#### Some Good News:

- Harvest Festival - Downtown Franklin - This Sunday, September 26 - Food, Fun, Entertainment, Shopping! Classic Cars! 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM