

**"The Three Rivers City"**

# Franklin Newsletter

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## City of Franklin Façade Improvement Project

### Investment in revitalization will increase property values and create jobs

*City Manager Elizabeth Dragon*

Franklin, N.H. (April 21, 2017)

**T**he City of Franklin is proud to announce its Façade Improvement Program is fully-funded, and work to complete critical façade improvements to historic storefronts in the downtown is under way. These important upgrades are possible thanks to Eversource's purchase of \$275,000 of a \$400,000 tax credit award from the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA).

The improvements are being funded by proceeds from the sale of the \$400,000 tax credit award from the CDFA. In addition to Eversource's commitment of \$275K, Franklin Savings Bank purchased \$100K in tax credits and Bank of New Hampshire purchased \$25K. "Economic Development and redevelopment takes the collaborative efforts of many people and organizations to be successful," said Ken Merrifield, Mayor of the City of Franklin. "We are grateful for the support and work of all our partners. This investment will bring about visible changes to storefronts in our downtown. We invite everyone to visit our small city often to witness and be part of the revitalization efforts as they continue to un-

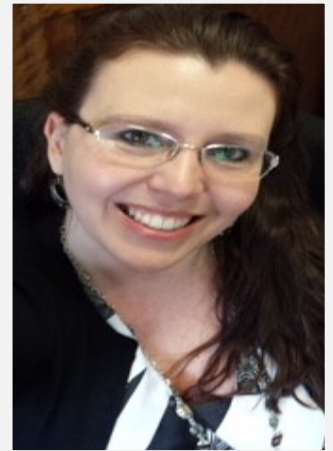
fold."

Leading the City's Façade Improvement Project are the Franklin Business and Industrial Development Corporation (FBIDC) and non-profit PermaCityLife (PCL), which has purchased seven vacant and underutilized buildings for the purpose of completing significant renovations and attracting new tenants. Several businesses have already committed to occupying the revitalized, mixed-use space, including a sporting goods store, coffee house, software firm, restaurant and brew pub, an art gallery, and Colby-Sawyer College.

"This project is a wonderful example of how public and private partnerships can enrich our communities," said Bill Quinlan, President of Eversource in New Hampshire. "This project to revitalize Franklin's historic downtown and power job creation is exactly the type of initiative Eversource is committed to supporting."

The City of Franklin, FBIDC and PCL thank all the private partners who purchased these tax credits, making this significant investment in Franklin possible.

"This project to enhance the downtown for residents of Franklin and visitors is just the beginning of a long-term plan

*City Manager Elizabeth Dragon*

for the revitalization of historic Franklin Falls," said Jim Aberg, Executive Director for the Franklin Business & Industrial Development Corporation. "We are thrilled to see this project move forward, and we look forward to welcoming businesses to a vibrant new commercial center."

About Franklin Business & Development Corporation: FBIDC is a non-profit corporation [501(c)3] with a voluntary nine person Board of Directors. The mission of FBIDC is to promote the expansion of the economic base of the City of

*Improvement Project  
(Continued on page 2)*

*Improvement Project (Continued from page 1)*

Franklin through strategies to make the community an increasingly attractive location to conduct business, to work, to play, and to raise a family. FBIDC is considered the economic development agency for the City.

About PermaCityLife: PermaCityLife, is a non-profit organization formally created in 2014 to serve as the catalytic organization focused on bringing the Franklin Falls Revitalization Plan to life. The mission is to lead the charge for posi-

tive and sustainable economic growth in downtown Franklin while protecting past investments.

PermaCityLife is working in partnership with local government, private investors, and the philanthropic sector to support and develop specific real estate projects in downtown Franklin.

About Eversource: Eversource (NYSE: ES) is New Hampshire's largest electric utility, serving more than 500,000 homes and businesses in 211 cities and towns and is proud to

be recognized as the top contributor to United Way in New Hampshire. Recognized as the top U.S. utility for its energy efficiency programs by the sustainability advocacy organization Ceres, Eversource harnesses the commitment of its approximately 8,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and superior customer service. For more information, please visit our website ([www.eversource.com](http://www.eversource.com)) and follow us on Twitter

([@eversourceNH](https://twitter.com/eversourceNH)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/EversourceNH](https://facebook.com/EversourceNH)).

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## Arbor Day Celebration



The Arbor Day ceremony was held in front of the City Library at which time City Staff planted three red maple trees donated to the City by the Conservation Commission.

In keeping with our City's continuing efforts towards recognizing the elegance of trees; their beauty; required maintenance and the need to keep them safe and healthy the City of Franklin continues to be a participating member of "Tree City U.S.A." since April 9, 2001 and recognized as such by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Franklin's Arbor Day ceremony was held on April 28, in front of the City Library at which time the City Staff planted three red maple trees donated by the Conservation Commission.

Arbor Day which is Latin for "Tree Day" is an Environmental Holiday where citizens and groups are encouraged to conduct ceremonies; plant trees and care for existing trees.

## Did You License Your Dog?

### *Did you license your dog(s)?*

*The City Clerks Office would like to remind you that the deadline to license your dog (s) is approaching.*

State law RSA 466:1 says that all dogs must be licensed each year by April 30th. If you haven't licensed your dog (s) by June 1, 2017, you will be subject to late and Civil

#### **Fees:**

*Puppy - Less than 6 months old \$6.50*

*Spayed/Neutered - \$6.50*

*Unaltered - 9.00*

*Senior Citizen - fees to license a dog apply to those 65 years and over and is limited to one dog \$2.00.*

*Late fee: \$1.00 month*

*Civil Forfeiture Fee - \$30.00*

forfeiture fees. A valid rabies certificate is required for licensing.

The City Clerks office will be closed on Wednesday, May 10, to attend the annual Clerk Spring Workshop. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Car registration renewals



can be processed on our City website as well as payments for water/sewer and property taxes <http://www.franklinnh.org/>

## Captain Michael Foss Promoted to Shift Captain



*Shift Captain Michael Foss*

Please join us in congratulating Captain Michael Foss on his recent promotion to Shift Captain. Captain Foss took the helm of "A-Shift" on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Captain Foss actually commanded a structure fire on his first day as a Captain.

Captain Foss is a Certified; Firefighter III, Nationally Registered Paramedic, Ice Rescue Technician, Swift-water Rescue Technician, Confined Space Technician, Company Officer, and has his Associates degree in Criminal Justice.

Michael has been with the Franklin Fire Department since June of 2012. He previously worked in Laconia and Plymouth.

## Welcome Firefighter Tony Roberts to the Franklin Fire Department

Firefighter Tony Roberts was recently hired as our newest fulltime member. Tony is a Certified; Firefighter III, Advanced EMT, Ice Rescue Technician and will be graduating from the NHCC in May with his Associates Degree in Fire Science. Tony is assigned to "A-Shift". Please join us in welcoming Tony to the Franklin Fire Department TEAM!



*Firefighter Tony Roberts*

## City Employment

### Franklin Fire Department

#### Call Fire Department Openings (firefighters and support personnel)

The Franklin Fire Department is seeking motivated and energetic individuals to join our team of community service responders. Successful candidates will fill positions on our Call Company. On Call members are needed for response to larger incidents to assist with mitigation and support. These positions demand commitment and dedication.

For a detailed description of the job opening and application information visit [http://www.franklinnh.org/Pages/FranklinNH\\_WebDocs/EmploymentDocs/employ](http://www.franklinnh.org/Pages/FranklinNH_WebDocs/EmploymentDocs/employ)

#### Franklin Supervisor of the Checklist Vacancy for Ward 2

The City of Franklin is seeking a volunteer citizen to fill a vacancy as a Supervisor of the Checklist for Ward 2. This position is an elected position and has many important responsibilities and deadlines; knowledge of election laws and procedures is a plus. Attendance at all elections is required and attendance at supervisor sessions that are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the election season. Applicants must be able to dedicate extra time after the elections to finalize the checklist. Applicants must be a registered voter of Ward 2. For detailed description of the job opening and application information visit

[http://www.franklinnh.org/Pages/FranklinNH\\_WebDocs/EmploymentDocs/employ](http://www.franklinnh.org/Pages/FranklinNH_WebDocs/EmploymentDocs/employ).

# Municipal Services Department

*Director Brian Sullivan*

## **Spring Cleanup**

The spring cleanup is off to a very slow start due to many projects that need to be performed simultaneously. Complicating the matter is we have deadlines to meet to keep roads and sidewalks safe, repair failed drainage structures, service equipment from the winter and deal with over 59 service calls. Simply stated, we have more work to catch up on that needs to be prioritized, than we do staff to get projects completed in a timely manner.

There is a significant amount of work projects to do this spring, some of which are underway, and we are already through April. Cleanup of winter sand from our sidewalks and streets is a top priority in order to prepare for pavement marking and re-painting. Gravel roads need grading and drains need to be cleaned and repaired. We have 84 drainage structures that need immediate attention of rebuilding and equipment needs repairing. Over 500 potholes were filled, litter picked up, signposts straightened out and signs replaced. Parks and ball fields need to be ready for spring sports. A lot to do in a short period of time! I am concerned about the workload and prioritizing these tasks so Public Safety items will take precedent.

## **Leaf Pick-Up**

We desperately need your help. Although we plan to pick up leaves as needed, we are now discovering that many residents are helping us out by transporting their leaves to the Transfer Station or they have decided to proceed with composting or simply bringing them to an area on their property such as into the woods. This is a HUGE help! In order to save on fuel and play catch up from this past winter please call the office at 603-934-4103 to be placed on the list for leaf pickup. We are finding that this will expedite the process and save person hours by driving street by street, wasting fuel and payroll searching for piles of leaves. As a reminder any leaves that are being requested for pickup need to be PILED NOT WINDROWED and in such a manner that we are not raking up leaves scattered about. We appreciate it. This past fall we completed Friday's trash route and about 2/3rds of Wednesday's route. We plan to continue in the spring, finishing Wednesdays and Monday's trash routes. We will not be going back over the areas which have already been completed last fall.

## **Fiscal Year Budget 2018**

I am presenting the entire, seven divisions, Municipal Services Department budget for upcoming fiscal year 2018 to the Franklin City Council on Tuesday evening May 30, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. This is not a public hearing but rather a budget workshop at which time I review the proposed budget with the Mayor and City Council. This meeting is open for the public to attend and hear what is anticipated to take place next fiscal year. The public is invited to attend.

## **Flow Meters**

In December 2016, we interviewed three engineering firms to perform the City of Franklin, NH, Sanitary Sewer Assessment. Underwood Engineering was awarded the contract and flow meters have been installed on schedule. On March 15th we initiated the collection of flow data to identify areas of fresh water intrusion (I and I) into our wastewater collection system. Our first set of results on mid-March to mid-April's flow data will be reviewed on Thursday, April 27. This will give us a preliminary glimpse as to the overall condition of the sanitary sewer system as it relates to I and I. You will get a progress report in your June newsletter.

## **Water System**

Annually USEPA requires that all Public Drinking Water Systems submit an annual Consumer Confidence Report to the systems consumers. This report is mailed to the 'owner of record' for each property serviced by City municipal water. It will also be made available on the City website, posted in municipal buildings and available at the Municipal Services Department Office, 43 West Bow Street in Franklin, NH 603-934-4103.

Many may ask if our City drinking water is safe. The City Water Department is classified as a Public Water System. As a result, we must meet stringent guidelines established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. We operate a federally licensed water system established as a result of the 1972 Clean Water Act. This ensures that public drinking water meets safe drinking water standards. We sample our drinking water every other week for bacteria, e-coli and other forms of contaminants. In addition, we sample for synthetic and organic chemicals, PFOA's, lead and copper. We draw over 214 water samples annually which are then tested in a certified lab and the results provided to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Drinking Water Bureau. The City water is safe and meets federally established requirements. The annual Consumer Confidence Report will provide you with reassurance that the drinking water we produce and store is safe for consumption by humans and pets.

If you have any questions or topics you would like me to report on feel free to give me a call. As always thank you for your support of the Municipal Services Department!

Most people are unaware as to what it takes to provide safe drinking water at adequate pressure requirements for domestic use by homeowners and to meet hydrant flows for fire protection. Over the past 14 years the City has had no choice but to upgrade various components of our water distribution system which includes the replacement and upgrade of tanks, water mains and service connections. Because of the City's topography we operate a complex system with three separate pressure zones, five water tanks, five pumping stations, 57 miles of pipe, 4 well fields and a water treatment plant which has been online since July of 2012. In September of 2015 the Franklin Water Department was named Water Utility of the Year by the New England Water Works Association. The major challenge we face is that our 2,488 customers must support the operation, maintenance and capital costs to operate, maintain and improve the system. Our average daily demand is 549,000 gallons of water. Unfortunately, our customer base is disproportionate to the vast amount of infrastructure in place that we must maintain. This has a significant impact on our water rates and resulting revenue it takes to operate and maintain the system. The cost to produce 748 gallons of safe drink-

*MSD (Continued on page 5)*

## Choose Franklin

You are invited to learn more about your community at the next Choose Franklin Meeting

The first Thursday of each month at 8 AM

Meetings are held upstairs at the Franklin Public Library

Thursday, May 4 at 8 AM

Community Day and Annual Meeting

Come find out what's happening. We will also be electing Board Members to represent Choose Franklin at the Advisory Board level.

Saturday, May 13

Choose Franklin Community Day

We've grown again! This year's event is happening in Odell Park and on Central Street in downtown Franklin. The 10 am parade will begin at the Franklin High School and end at Canal Street. Day long activities include an Art Scavenger Hunt, vendor booths, BBQ, food trucks, rides, business specials, tiny house model to explore and much more!

Thursday, June 1

Summer Kick Off

What's happening in Franklin this summer - lots! Come and hear all of the many things planned for the community members young and old for the next coming months.

*MSD (Continued from page 4)*

ing water is currently \$6.07. What does a bottle or gallon of store purchased water cost?

The Drinking Water Division of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services just completed their federally required "Sanitary Survey" of Franklin's Water System. I am very happy to report we received an excellent review. Kudos to our State Certified/Licensed Public Water System Operators!

### **Road Work**

We plan on regrouping later this spring to complete roadwork on sections of Prospect Street and Terrace Road. We will then proceed to prepping and resurfacing Woodrow Avenue, Davis Street and Sanborn Street (from Babbitt Road to Kendall Street). Work on Prospect Street from #308 to Central Street will not be started until we wrap up all work on these other streets. This is necessary because of the magnitude of work involved in preparing this section of Prospect Street for reconstruction.

Traffic lines will be painted the night of May 2, weather permitting.

### **Tree Trimming**

Tree trimming is a necessary task to ensure public safety and avoid a loss of electricity. Eversource has informed the City that they will be performing significant vegetation removal within all of their right of ways and easements this summer. This is a worthwhile project which I strongly support as it is proactive and ensures that there is minimal damage to transmission line infrastructure as a result of severe weather and the damage it can incur. I commend Eversource towards making this significant investment and taking this approach. Many of the right of ways have not been cleared for many years.

### **Property Maintenance**

We request that property owners to rid their property of old furniture and other unsightly debris and unused junk. The Transfer Station at 79 Punch Brook Road is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 7:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. There is no charge to dispose of furniture. This makes a visual difference to a property; improves our standard of living; eliminates fire hazards and rodents, increases property values and keeps us in compliance with the City's Property Maintenance Code.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### City Council Members

#### Mayor Ken Merrifield

603-934-6837

#### Ward 1 Councilors

Heather Moquin

603-455-2551

Anthony Giunta

603-934-0025

George Dzujna

603-934-7163

#### Ward 2 Councilors

Vincent Ribas

603-934-5330

Olivia Zink

603-934-4297

Bob Desrochers Sr.

603-934-4604

#### Ward 3 Councilors

James Wells

603-934-2652

Scott Clarenbach

603-934-2158

Steve Barton

603-934-7109

#### City Manager

Elizabeth Dragon

603-934-3900 ext. 5

#### Executive Secretary

Lauraine Paquin

#### City Officials/Tax Collectors

603-934-3109

#### City Clerk

Katie Gargano

#### Deputy Clerk

Marie Morang

#### Account Clerk

Amy Davis

## City Volunteer Opportunities

*As part of the Franklin for a Lifetime Project many volunteer action groups were formed to assist with community development and are now active. See the listing below for the action groups and group leader contact information.*

### Housing

Dick Lewis – [dlewis@franklinnh.org](mailto:dlewis@franklinnh.org)

### Volunteerism and Civic Life

Christine Dzujna – [dzujna@metrocast.net](mailto:dzujna@metrocast.net)

### Marketing

Elizabeth Dragon - [citymgr@franklinnh.org](mailto:citymgr@franklinnh.org)

*\*Elaine Romano - Franklin Newsletter Volunteer*

### Arts and Culture

Annette Andreozzi – [aaucanh@gmail.com](mailto:aaucanh@gmail.com)

### Community Events and Recreational Activities

Krystal Alpers – [kalpers@franklinnh.org](mailto:kalpers@franklinnh.org)

## City Holidays and Closures

City Clerks Office will be closed on Wednesday, May 10.  
The City will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 30.



## E-Alerts Sign-up Today

Sign-up for *E-Alerts* to receive the Franklin Newsletter in your email every month. Other news and announcement's are available with *E-Alert*. Subscribe at <http://www.franklinnh.org/Subscriber>

## Related Links

[Choose Franklin](#)

[Footlight Theatre](#)

[Franklin Parks & Recreation Department](#)

[Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Three Rivers News](#)