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THE COALITION OF CONCERNED CITIZENS'

Forest Heights Herald Examiner

From the Editor

Forest Heights Sued For Fraud



Myles Spires - Editor

I have been asked what made me sue the town of Forest Heights. In a nutshell, **THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL LIED** to the citizens of this town.

You will notice that your taxes were raised. Are the streets fixed? How is the trash service? These are problems that should have been answered by the **ILLEGAL** tax increase that

the Mayor and Town Council imposed on us.

The hundreds of dollars in tax increase that you saw in your escrow or direct tax payments were supposed to go to fix the streets (Ask the Town Clerk for an official record on this). Instead, the math shows that \$70,000 of it goes to pay a Town Administrator and the rest gets spent at will. This brings us to another question:

If we are paying the mayor to be the mayor, why give \$70,000 for a Town Administrator to do....what???

I guess the bottom line is

that the Town of Forest Heights is financially hurting me and you, providing no return on our tax investment and, in fact, are allowing our streets to crumble right before our eyes. We really can't enjoy our property or gain the increase value/equity in our properties that we would have if they would just stop LYING and fix the streets. Looks like we are getting robbed twice!

Well, at least our seriously underpaid and understaffed police are able to stop some of the robbery in Forest Heights by catching some Dope Dealers.

Let the Record Show

Forest Heights Mayor Paula Noble said that "The Mayor and Council are accountable to the residents..." so we figured we should take the time to introduce the citizens of Forest Heights to their elected officials and assess their performance. For the next few issues, we will

explore each of these officials a little closer. Unfortunately, we do not have pictures at this time but I am sure they will make themselves known after this article.

Mayor Paula Noble - appointed Oct. 1, 2003, to replace Sue E. McGinnis, who resigned Sept. 30, 2003. Much speculation surrounds her appointment to be Mayor. Some say it was clear conspiracy others say that was default.

On Lynn Smith Barnes
 "...never imagined that she would vote to increase their taxes without fixing the streets."

On Joyce Beck
 "She is the only Councilmember who voted against the tax increase. Without a doubt, Ms. Beck is a thorn in the Town Council's side..."

On Worthington Ross
 "Ask him and he says that he never said the tax increase was to fix the streets. He is the consummate politician. We say, play the tape!"

What we know is that under her leadership, taxes have been raised, streets remain in disrepair (although the taxes raised were supposed to pay for the streets), and the trash collection services have declined.

Carmelita (Lynn) Smith-Barnes - President [chair pro tem] (chosen by Council in Oct., 1-year term) Ward 1,

2005 – To speak with her personally, one gets the sense that she is of the people. When watching her on the Council, she seems not to really represent the people. Ms. Barnes seldom contributes anything to the dialogue...does she understand? She mainly agrees with whatever the majority does...is she a leader or follower?

Folks that voted for her never imagined that she would vote to increase their taxes without fixing the streets. It is unfortunate that she seldom speaks on behalf of her constituents when it comes to tax matters, streets, etc. because without a doubt, she has the personality of regular people.

Joyce Beck, Ward 2, 2005 – Probably the most outspoken member of the Council. The one who orchestrated Mayor Noble's appointment. Seldom does she go along with any-

thing the Council does. She is the only Council member who voted against the tax increase. Without a doubt, Ms. Beck is a thorn in the Town Council's side; so much so that she has been escorted from the public town meetings on at least two occasions for vehemently making a point. By the way, in substance what she was saying when escorted out was what any citizen would have been saying. "I vote NO" [to tax increases and to obtaining 2 million dollars of debt for the Town of Forest Heights].

Worthington Ross, Ward 3, 2005 - Funny, witty, and very personable. Although, his constituents say they have not seen nor heard from him since they voted for him. Nevertheless, he is one of the more articulate members of the Council although not reliable for a clear recollection of facts. He has a bent for being able to explain away any thing that the Council does that does not meet charter muster. Ask him and he says that he never said the tax increase was to fix the streets. He is the consummate politician. We say, play the tape!



The Boys with the Black Berets.

While winter months always seem to dictate a decline in crime, it is wonderful to see that the Forest Heights Police Department is not letting up on patrol. It would be easy for them to sit back on their laurels. However, under the direction of Acting Chief Michael "Airborne" Eubank, our real cool cops, sporting their black berets, are hard on the job of keeping things safe in our town.

It should never be overlooked that the police force assembled in this town is doing an outstanding job. Dope dealers are not nearly as comfortable as they were even a year ago. Neighbors are finally figuring out how to stay on their own property. And common thieves are being caught.

Now we know that many would say, we will see when the weather warms up. Well, let's put our money on the boys with the black berets. Hopefully, the Town Council and Mayor will see fit to leave the structure in place by making the Acting Chief an offer that he just can't refuse. If there is one thing that is working correctly in this town, this would have to be it.