



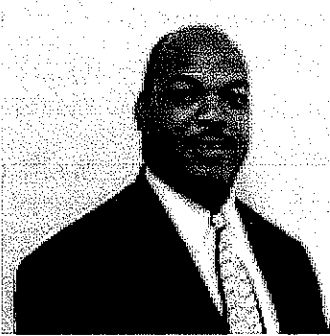
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THE COALITION OF CONCERNED CITIZENS'

# Forest Heights Herald Examiner

From the Editor

## Fiscal Fiasco in Forest Heights



Myles Spires - Editor

Next month, we the residents of Forest Heights will have the opportunity to send a clear message to our town officials as to how we feel about the management of the town. It is election time again.

To be a part of the solution, I am running for the Ward II Town Council seat. Now don't be surprised as councilpersons and perhaps the mayor who you have not seen since you voted for them

suddenly reappear soliciting your vote with the promise of how they will look out for your interest. That would be the same old thing and you can not allow yourself to be fooled by these politicians who claimed to be moving the town forward but actually have moved us into a fiscal fiasco where, **thanks to the current mayor and town council members, many homeowners in Forest Heights now pay nearly \$400 a year more in taxes for their home** (check your bill and see what your increase has been).

Consider also that we need new blood in the town government. It seems the same people have been at the helm just a little too

long and simply have done a bad job by taxing us without spending our money wisely - to fix the streets. They have not kept their word. Instead, they have made excuses for why they broke their word. Let's hold them accountable.

On election day, **I urge you to vote your pocketbook and wallet.** If you do not want to keep moving forward into a deeper financial fiasco, **vote for a candidate who has never been mayor and candidates who have never sat on the town council.**

On election day ask yourself, what did they do with my \$400 dollars?

## Quotes, Quips, and Implications

When interviewed by *Forest Heights Herald Examiner* (FHHE) about her bid to be mayor, **Councilwoman Joyce Beck said** "I promised the residents of Forest Heights when Paula Noble became mayor that if she [Paula] messed up, that I would run for mayor. I am keeping my word. I voted no

against the tax increase and I hope the townspeople will do the same in the coming election."

**A town resident at the March 2005 town meeting said of Council President, Carmelita Lynn Smith-Barnes** "Who's running the meeting, Wiggers or her."

**Patricia Parker said,** "...Also, Forest Heights is a government township. There are rules and regulations in place to govern. I expect the Mayor and Council to uphold total integrity in doing their job. A check and balance system is in place to use, so use it."

**Councilwoman Joyce Beck said** "I promised the residents of Forest Heights when Paula Noble became mayor that if she [Paula] messed up, that I would run for mayor. I am keeping my word. I voted no against the tax increase and I hope the townspeople will do the same in the coming election."

**The mayor and councilman George Wiggers said** "Mr. Baca's estimate for the work was...sidewalks (\$70,349)..."

**So why do we pay the town administrator \$70,000 dollars a year instead of having sidewalks. Is it better to have the kids walk in the streets?**

**Former Mayor Sue McGinnis said** "Now it is time to focus on moving ahead to a more prosperous future for our town."

**Later, after Sue resigned, Paula Noble said** "We are moving forward." Not very original in light of the former Mayor's quote.

Were they talking about the same thing? We don't think so. Say what you like but, under Sue's administration at least one street got fixed without increasing the taxes. Paula Noble's administration has yet to fix one street although they have collected, we guess, about \$150,000 dollars in increased tax revenue.

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Well, that check and balance has been dissolved when the current mayor and council abolished the town ethics commission and replaced it with the town attorney who they pay. Sounds like putting the fox in the hen house. Now do you really think that the town attorney will check or balance the mayor and council? We don't think so.

These are just a few quotes from around our community. Words have so much power and the actions associated with those words are just as powerful. It is our hope that we are able to help the town residents truly hear what folks are saying and see what our elected officials are doing.

**Arsenio Hall said** " Things that make you go, HmMMM?"

**Myles Spires said** "...vote your pocketbook and wallet. If you do not want to keep moving forward into a deeper financial fiasco, vote for a candidate who has never been mayor and candidates who have never sat on the town council."

## Useful Information

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