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From the Editor

Sorting Out the Town Business



Myles Spires - Editor

Though a far cry from reality, the mayor and town council have identified me as the one citizen who stopped them from putting our town into \$2,000,000 dollars worth of debt that would certainly have ensured our taxes being raised again.

The truth is that the credit for saving our town from certain bankruptcy belongs to the nearly 200 resident Coalition of Concerned Citizens who, in September 2004, signed a petition to oppose the application for obtaining the \$2,000,000 dollar debt because we had already been taxed \$400.00 a year more per household to fix the streets. Like you, these people have not been fooled by the rhetoric and outright lies from the mayor and her cronies.

What's more, not only did the mayor lie to the residents of Forest Heights, but when applying for the loan, she

told the agency that Forest Heights' tax base includes taxes from Eastover and Rivertowne. I ask you, would you ever lend money to a liar? Probably not. Would you remember the liar if they tried to borrow money from you again? Probably so. The mayor has made a good case for Forest Heights never to be able to borrow money from the state - even if we did need it. Thank God, we don't.

The illegal tax increase that was imposed on us should have yielded our town \$223,000 dollars in annual revenue. According to sources close to the mayor, there is only \$100,000 dollars in the bank. That means, \$123,000 dollars from the tax increase is missing. Keep in mind, that \$223,000 was money that she and her cronies said would go to fix the streets. Prior to this increase, the town was paying all of its other obligations just fine. So this tax increase money should have been free and clear. The question is, What did Mayor Paula Noble do with the money? **This is why I was forced to file suit - to recover our missing tax money which was illegally and fraudulently taken from us by the mayor and council. If the suit is won, all residents will receive their tax money back with interest.**

To make matters worse, the mayor publicly stated that we still don't know how much money we have. Although she did obtain a \$50,000 loan in the Town's

name. Debt we did not need. After nearly 18 months in office, she expects us to be satisfied with not knowing how much money the town has. We have had no audits of the town's financial records since before she was appointed mayor. This is simply unacceptable. Try running your house without knowing how much money is in your bank account.

At one time she was blaming Sue McGinnis and implying that the former mayor had been stealing. She has repeatedly and openly blamed the former mayor for the financial confusion in the town. Yet, she has yet to clear up one drop of the confusion. So then are we to believe that Sue McGinnis is the cause for the financial woes of Forest Heights?

We may never know how the mayor spent the money, but what we do know is that there is a way to make sure she can not spend any more of the town's money.

New leadership would be the first step in sorting out the town business.

Let's start with getting a new mayor and councilpersons not associated with the mayor's cronies who illegally taxed us without keeping their word.

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THE COALITION OF CONCERNED CITIZENS' Forest Heights Herald Examiner

A Good Look At the Candidates

Office for which candidate is running is listed beside their name.



Joyce Beck - Mayor

Voting Record - **No** to Tax increase, **No** to acquiring town debts in the aggregate amount of \$2,050,000.00, **No** to abolishing Forest Heights Ethics Commission, **No** to Hiring Town Lobbyist.

Governmental Focus: Financial Accountability, Crime Reduction, Re-establishment of Ethics Commission, Property Standards, Street Repair.

Paula Noble - Mayor

Voting Record - **Yes** to Tax increase, **Yes** to acquiring town debts in the aggregate amount of \$2,050,000.00, **Yes** to abolishing Forest Heights Ethics Commission, **Yes** to Hiring Town Lobbyist,

Governmental Focus: Municipal Building Aesthetics, Annexation,



Get Out and Vote

by Ricardo Sears

Paula Noble
 "Well tell your husband that you better move out of town."

This year's elections are proving to be one of the hottest contended elections in recent years. The intensity with which candidates are campaigning has been incredible. We talked to many of the residents and found that many who have never voted before are expressing their intentions to come out and vote. Unfortunately, many are having a hard time understanding some of the procedures, issues and the candidates.

In terms of procedures, one resident asked us why the polls don't open until 11:00 a.m. They felt it was indicative of the town's not considering working people who would vote if the polls opened earlier. We assured them that they should indeed take advantage of the 8:00 p.m. closing time and vote.

Yet another resident had no idea where the voting would take place. Most thought it was at the local elementary school. Of course, we directed them to the Municipal Building.

Yet the most concern amongst our town residents is surrounding the knock down drag out approach of the races themselves.

While the Ward II Council race is no where as intense as the Mayor's race, folks are questioning why Mayor Noble, Councilman Atkinson, and Councilman Stoner convinced a citizen (Mr. Tommy Davis) who simply has never dem-

onstrated an interest in the town's affairs to run for a seat. He was recruited after they could not convince others to run. The first meeting he attended in two years was last month - just after his candidacy was announced. What's more, he failed to show up for any of the three Community Forums on Street Repair held April 23, 25, and 27; hardly indicative of someone who should be on the town council or even has the time and drive to be on the council.

The speculation is that the mayor and company would rather anyone other than Myles Spires win the election because they know that he will not go along with their questionable programs.

Still one of the most perplexing question is why would the mayor use the town seal, county seal, and state crown on her campaign material. Our sources have informed us that the County Executive, Governor, and Secretary of State's offices have vehemently denied endorsing her or giving her permission to use

the seals. In fact, we have reason to believe that there will be legal action taken as a result of her unethical and illegal use of those seals.

More disturbing than this was the Mayor's threat to a citizen who refused to allow her to place a campaign sign in their yard. "Well tell your husband that you better move out of town."

People have been wondering why Joyce Beck has become more vocal than ever during her mayoral bid for election. We sense that this is Joyce's example of community involvement. We asked her directly about her exposure of town official's improprieties and she was clear "The townspeople need to be involved so that the things I am talking about will never be able to happen again."

We agree and encourage you to get out and vote. There are too many reasons why you should be involved; your money, safety, and property are a few. Pick a reason and vote on May 11.

"The townspeople need to be involved so that the things I am talking about will never be able to happen again."

Joyce Beck

VOTE

Joyce Beck

For

MAYOR

"No more business as usual - vote for change"

Paid for by Joyce Beck

May 11, 2005

Vote Your Wallet

Public Attack of Resident in Town Meeting

by Sylvia Brady

The importance of respecting each other in this community can never be overemphasized. Nobody has to remember this more than those who lead and govern our time.

So it was, that the April town meeting seemed to be going along fine. In response to an earlier question, the town attorney and town council explained that they all spoke as one body. The mayor opened the floor for public period

and suddenly and without warning, that one body's mouthpiece in the person of Councilman Worthington Ross responded to a residents question and comment by saying "Sit down with that bull@#\$%^".

Unfortunately, this was not Mr. Ross' first time flagrantly disrespecting what the residents have to say. Normally, he just does not say it loud enough to be heard by most people.

I must say, I have never heard him say things like that to younger men. Does that make him a coward or bully?

Although I suppose he will win this election that he is running against himself (or perhaps a good write in campaign will get rid of him.) the rest of the council should put some rigging tape on his mouth. He is about to get them sued again.

Advertisements and Notices



Happy Mother's Day

To all the Mother's in the town of Forest Heights, we at the Forest Heights Herald Examiner would like to extend our warmest and heartfelt thanks for all you do.



Congratulations!

Bill Clarke on your retirement. Thank you for your many years of service to this community. You will be missed.

WANTED

The Forest Heights Herald Examiner is looking for young men or women ages 14-16 to deliver the Examiner in all Wards of the Town of Forest Heights. Must be reliable. For more information :

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VOTE

Myles Spires
For
Town Council-Ward II

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VOTE

paid for by Alice Hoskins

Alice Hoskins
For
Town Council-Ward I

"It's time to make a change"

A Good Look At the Candidates (cont.)

Office for which candidate is running is listed beside their name.



Myles Spires - Ward II
Councilperson

Voting Record - As Ethics Commissioner, voted **Yes** to Mayor and Town Council Ordered Compliance with Ethics Rules, **Yes** to Mayor and Town Council Compliance with Town Charter and Ordinances, **Yes** to Establishment

of Rules of Conduct for the Mayor and Town Council. As Chairman of the Ethics Commission, investigated and issued order for mayoral and town council compliance to the laws of Forest Heights.

Governmental Focus: Government Officials Ethics, Financial Accountability, Crime Reduction, Infrastructure Repair, Youth Development

Alice Hoskins - Ward I
Councilperson



Civic Participation - Foremost Proponent of utility company safety practices. Lobbying Washington Gas to repair leaks throughout Forest Heights. Strong voice for grass roots government and public official accountability. Advocate to ensure real estate values are consistent with regional increased value trends. Participated in Community Forum to address Street Repair.

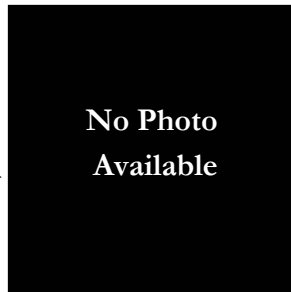
Governmental Focus: Utilities Maintenance, Infrastructure Repair, Public Services, Crime Reduction, Financial Accountability

Tommy Davis - Ward II
Councilperson

Civic Participation - None

Governmental Focus: Not Assessed.

Background: Because Mr. Davis has not attended many town meetings and no community forums, we have not been able to fully assess his awareness of the issues of our town.



Carmelita Barnes - Ward I
Councilperson

Voting Record - **Yes** to Tax increase, **Yes** to abolishing Forest Heights Ethics Commission, **Yes** to Hiring Town Lobbyist, **Yes** to acquiring town debts in the aggregate amount of \$2,050,000.00

Governmental Focus: Municipal Building Aesthetics