

### **VOTER REGISTRATION**

Is your voter registration up-to-date? When any changes are made in your legal address or phone number it is your personal responsibility to have your voter registration records brought up-to-date. Many street names and numbers have been changed within the past two years. These changes are not reflected in your records at the Board of Elections unless you personally request them.

The entire Village of Flat Rock is now in it's own voter precinct and we presently vote at St. John in the Wilderness. This change took place in 2000. If you registered to vote prior to this change the voter registration card you presently hold may say something different. If you need an updated card the Board of Elections will issue it to you upon request in person at their office.

If you are not presently registered to vote you are encouraged to do so. It is easy! Here are four simple ways:

- Go to the Board of Elections office
- Use *www.sboe.state.us*
- DMV will assist you when you renew your drivers license
- Village of Flat Rock office can provide you with a Voter Registration Card you can mail in to the Board of Elections

### **TAX STUDY GROUP**

Your Village Council has deemed it expedient to "form a tax study group with the objective to develop possible alternatives and make recommendations to the Council regarding tax issues facing the Village." Multiple revenue and legal alternatives are to be studied and full documentation is to be provided to the Council by the study group.

We need volunteers who are willing to both work as part of the study group and who are

willing to help inform our citizens about the findings. Included but not limited to talents needed are persons who know:

- Accounting
- Financial Management
- Investment Analysis
- Legal
- Public Policy
- Proposal writing
- Volunteer fire fighters

The work of this study group will make a major contribution to the future of our Village. Please call Terry Hicks at 697-9022 or the Village Office.

### **VILLAGE WEB SITE & ELECTRONIC MAIL PROJECTS**

The Village has a web site that is intended to help keep the citizens informed of current events, topics of discussion and to provide a means of downloading certain information. The address is: **<http://www.villageofflatrock.org>**.

A project is under way to re-design the site to make it more user friendly, easier to maintain and to keep it current. In addition, the intent is to have all Village forms on the site available for downloading. All ordinances are currently there but will be put into Adobe Acrobat format for easier use. Minutes of past Council minutes will ultimately be place on the site.

If there are volunteers who have experience with web site design and maintenance willing to help on the upgrade, please advise Rowena Sweezy or Michelle Parker at the Village Office (697-8100).

A project is currently underway working with homeowner associations to be able to relay e-mails on current village topics.

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATION UPDATE**

One of the most common complaints we get in the Village Zoning Office regards Flat Rock property owners parking RV's and utility trailers in sight of a public road or an adjacent property for extended periods of time.

Section 1005 of our zoning ordinance clearly defines what is permitted in this regard; to wit:

### **Recreational, Commercial and Utility Vehicle storage and Parking.**

*The overnight storage and parking of recreational and commercial vehicles exceeding a two (2) ton capacity or a length of twenty-five (25) feet or height of twelve (12) feet within the jurisdiction of this ordinance shall be prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein. All permitted recreational, commercial, and utility vehicles, including motor powered vehicles, trailers or campers, and boats used solely by the residents of the premises shall be stored on the lot or tract of the principal residence in a garage or other enclosed accessory building, or in a side or rear yard if adequately buffered. For the purpose of this section, buffering may include plantings, walls, fences, existing vegetation and buildings or a combination of buffering techniques.*

*Recreational vehicles may be temporarily parked on the lot or tract of the principal residence of the owner for the purposes of loading and unloading, maintenance and cleaning, for a period not to exceed seven (7) consecutive days or a total of six (6) weeks in a calendar year. Except as permitted in Section 808, no such vehicle shall be used for sleeping or eating purposes within the jurisdiction of this ordinance for more than the seven (7) consecutive days or the*

*total of six (6) weeks in a calendar year described in the preceding sentence.*

*Except where not visible from an adjacent property or roadway, no recreational, commercial or utility vehicle shall be stored outside of an enclosed garage or building.*

*No recreational, commercial or utility vehicle shall be parked overnight on any public or private street or road within the jurisdiction of this ordinance.*

If you have an RV or trailer, park it in your drive only to load and unload. The rest of the time we suggest you keep it in a shelter or area out of view of the public road and your neighbor, or take it off your property. Your neighbor will appreciate it and you will be complying with the law.

You can read the Zoning Ordinance in its entirety online at [www.villageofflatrock.org](http://www.villageofflatrock.org). Click on Ordinances and go to Ordinance #31.

### **IS THE STATE HOLDING YOUR MONEY?**

There are quite a few names listed on the internet as residents of Flat Rock who may be owed money by the State Treasurer. You may be one. The money owed could be tax refunds, bank accounts closed, utility deposits not refunded, and other reasons that these funds were sent to the State Treasurer. To find out if you we on the list follow the procedures listed below:

1. Go to [www.wlos.com](http://www.wlos.com)
2. Scroll down to short cuts and double click on unclaimed cash.
3. Type in "Flat Rock" or "Flat Rock, NC", and hit search or
4. Type in your name, Flat Rock and hit search.

If you are listed, there is a procedure to make a claim. GOOD LUCK!