



# The Village Record

Village of Flat Rock Newsletter  
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## From The Mayor's Desk

*Ray E. Shaw, Jr.*

I hope that you got to "CELEBRATE FLAT ROCK" on May 6th to get some ice cream and enjoy some good entertainment. Over 1000 of our citizens did get to the event which was held on a beautiful day sandwiched between two very rainy days. The Fire Departments and EMS units serving Flat Rock also had equipment on display which attracted a lot of attention. Clowns and face painting along with displays by the Flat Rock Merchants Association highlighted the day's events.

We now have a revised website at [villageofflatrock.org](http://villageofflatrock.org). There are some good pictures of "CELEBRATE FLAT ROCK" on the web. Take a look.

Southern Bell has now removed most of their lines from the old poles on NC-225 and we are now awaiting Duke Energy to complete removing the old poles.

After a request by the Village, NCDOT agreed to review the speed limit of 40 mph on Erkwood Road between Kanuga

and Rutledge. Residents were concerned that traffic conditions had changed significantly and that the posted speed limit should be reduced. After a study by NCDOT it was determined that development along this section of Erkwood had not changed significantly to justify a reduction in posted speed limits.

The Kudzu Eradication Committee, chaired by Jim Holmes, continues to work to eliminate this pesky vine. On June 7th a field trip looked at how to eliminate small patches of Kudzu without the use of herbicides. For more information contact [www.kokudzu.com](http://www.kokudzu.com).

As of this writing, action by the State legislature on the cable franchise is still unclear. If the State takes over the franchising responsibility, the municipalities will be a clear loser financially speaking. We have written our representatives in Raleigh requesting that they oppose the State's effort to assume franchising responsibility or to rewrite the legislation so that the municipalities are not hurt by this action.

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As you know already, Flat Rock is getting a movie theatre. On or around July 7th, Flat Rock Cinema will be located in the Singleton Centre next to the Wine Shoppe. Let's all support this newest addition to our community.

Finally, your Council has adopted a balanced budget for FY 06-07 in the amount of \$1.5M. This budget reflects the same 8.5 cents fire tax currently in effect. Fire tax revenues will be \$546,400 with expenditures \$576,616. The difference of some \$30,000 will be made up from other revenue streams.

Have a great summer.

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### **New Members Sought For Board Of Adjustment**

The Flat Rock Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body that (1) hears appeals of decisions of the Zoning Administrator under the Village of Flat Rock Zoning Ordinance; (2) on appeal, interprets the zoning map and passes on disputed questions of lot lines and zoning district boundary lines and other matters arising under the zoning ordinance; (3) hears requests for variances from provisions of the zoning ordinance that relate to the use, construction and alteration of buildings or structures; and (4) hears cases involving conditional uses authorized by the zoning ordinance.

The Board of Adjustment is comprised of five members and five alternates

appointed by the Village Council for staggered three-year terms. The council is now in the process of filling two positions on the board for terms beginning August 13, 2006, and is seeking qualified candidates. If you have an interest in serving the Village as a member or alternate member of the Board of Adjustment, please call Michelle Hill at 697-8100, or visit her at the Village office and complete a volunteer information form. The Village depends on its volunteers, and your service will be appreciated.

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### **Zoning Volunteers Needed**

The Zoning Administration Department needs several volunteers to assist in the implementation and enforcement of the Village Zoning Ordinance.

You will be asked to become familiar with the Village Zoning Ordinance and spend two hours, one day per week in the zoning office helping property owners and builders to comply with the ordinance. Site visits and case record-keeping is required. A once-a-month breakfast meeting gives you an opportunity to meet the other zoning personnel and discuss zoning activities.

If you are interested, come to the Village office and fill out a volunteer application. Your participation will help your village remain a pleasant place to live and be greatly appreciated by your fellow citizens.

## Summer Time and the Living is Easy

It's that time of year when we pack our suitcases and take vacations. Of course, folks come to Flat Rock to visit as well.

To solve your quandary of entertaining guests, visit the Flat Rock Merchants Association website at [www.flatrockonline.com](http://www.flatrockonline.com). There are plenty of inns and eateries, shopping spots, historic sites, and theatre and cinema opportunities to keep your guests busy. They may even stay longer than you anticipated.

Some special summer events to be aware of:

**Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site**— On Wednesdays through Saturdays throughout the summer, beginning June 14 through August 12, Flat Rock Playhouse performances will be held at Carl Sandburg Home from 10:15 to 10:45 am. A special event to be held this fall is "A Visit with Lincoln" on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. Don't forget to turn on your televisions on Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm. The historic home will be featured on "Our State" on UNC-TV. Also in the works is a Sandburg documentary being planned by Paul Bonesteel, recent honoree at the Arida Arts Symposium. (He is the son of Flat Rock residents Pete and Georgia Bonesteel.)

**Historic Flat Rock** is hosting its popular Tour of Homes on Saturday, July 29 from 10 am to 4 pm. Featured homes are Pleasant Hill, Tranquility, Rhododendron and Brookland. Both events will benefit the non-profit group that does so much to preserve Flat Rock and its historic district and homes. Tour tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$10 for children. Call for information at 692-3571 or 890-3379.

**Flat Rock Playhouse**, and support organization The Supporting Players, will present the annual festive fundraising event, the Dark Night Revue on Monday July 31. The regular season of plays for June through October include Kiss Me Kate (June 7-25), Don't Dress for Dinner (June 28-July 15), Thoroughly Modern Millie (July 19-Aug. 13), The Unexpected Guest (Aug. 23 – Sept. 10), Leading Ladies (Sept. 13- Oct. 1), and I Love You You're Perfect Now Change (Oct. 4- 22). Info and ticket prices for all these events call 693-0731 or visit [www.flatrockplayhouse.org](http://www.flatrockplayhouse.org).

**Summer Music Series**, sponsored by Flat Rock Merchants Association and Carolina First Bank, will be held on the first Saturday evening of the month through October. Musicians include Michael Reno Harrell on July 1, Laura Blackley on August 5, Gove Scrivenor on Sept. 2, and Tom Fisch on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The free, family friendly event is held on Little Rainbow Row's back deck from 6-8 pm with food available for purchase from Woodfield Inn and Flat Rock Bakery. Bring your own lawn chair.

**Flat Rock Music Festival** will be held the weekend of September 29 through October 1 at Camp Ton-A-Wondah. This is a family oriented event featuring American roots-based music with both local and national performers. Prices include camping and all music venues. Food and craft vendors on site. The festival benefits ECO and a variety of charities that assist cancer patients. Visit [www.flatrockmusicfestival.com](http://www.flatrockmusicfestival.com) for more information.

**Blue Grass Pick'n** - 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Sunday July 9. Free. The public is invited to participate, and refreshments will be served. Hosted by Roger Cope and Steve Whiteside at Flat Rock Guitar in the Singleton Centre.

In other merchant news, a welcome is extended to four new businesses joining our organization. In alphabetical order,

- **Diamond Rush**, a full line jewelry store owned and operated by Ed and Chris Wright and Pascal Reber, has opened its third store in the Flat Rock Post Office Building. Their address is 2689D Greenville Highway. Phone 698-8328, e-mail: [diamondrush@hotmail.com](mailto:diamondrush@hotmail.com).
- **Flat Rock Cinema** will be located in the Singleton Centre at 2700-D Greenville Highway, PO Box 426, Flat Rock. The planned opening date is July 7<sup>th</sup>. The cinema, relocating from the Skyland Cinema downtown, will take up the lower floor of the old village hall offices. It will offer a wider selection of movies, food and beverages and will serve on the patio too. Phone 697-2463, Email: [howard@flatrockcinema.com](mailto:howard@flatrockcinema.com). Owners Howard and Barb Molton.
- **Flat Rock Guitar** offers education in music, and the art(s) of guitar playing. Operated by Roger Cope and Steve Whiteside, the studio is located in the Singleton Centre at 2702-D Greenville Highway, Flat Rock. Mailing address is 141 Willow Way, Hendersonville, NC 28739. Phone contact is 242-5417, or 329-4792. The studio e-mail address is [flatrockguitar@bellsouth.net](mailto:flatrockguitar@bellsouth.net).
- **Flat Rock Music Festival**, under the direction of Charlie Tucker, is held annually at Camp Ton-A-Wondah off Little River Road. (See above events for festival information.) Call 692-2005, or e-mail [info@flatrockmusicfestival.com](mailto:info@flatrockmusicfestival.com) to learn more about the festival or be a sponsor.
- **Four Seasons Title Insurance**, 2700-C, Box 426, Flat Rock. Phone 692-7104. Owners: Howard and Barb Molton, Steven Wilkie, and Jonathan Parce. E-mail: [howard@fstitle.com](mailto:howard@fstitle.com).

The company provides lender-required insurance on land purchases to prevent others from making claim to the property.

Last but not least, thank you to the Flat Rock community for supporting the merchants first-ever hot dog stand at the Celebrate Flat Rock event. Our profit of \$500 will go to sponsorship of deserving families in the Flat Rock school district during the Christmas season.

Membership in Flat Rock Merchants Association is open to any business in the village limits of Flat Rock. Contact Treasurer Bob Horky at Mill House Lodge, 693-6077, or President Dale Bartlett at Flat Rock Playhouse at 693-0731.

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### Hobo Ball

The Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara invite you to attend our HOB0 BALL, September 9, 2006 at 6 p.m., at the Kenmure Country Club. \$75.00 per person. This will be a fun, casual evening with drinks, dinner, entertainment and auction. Proceeds will benefit the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC. Tickets are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please call 698-5744.

## **Flat Rock Faces Invasion of the Woolys**

Just when you thought you could sleep at night and not worry about anything too serious, an ominous invader has crept into our neighborhoods and threatens our beautiful Hemlock trees. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA, for short) has been diagnosed throughout Flat Rock, and especially in some of our yards. This insect has the potential for killing all of our Hemlocks within a 2-4 year period if it is not treated. In our yard we have had two separate diagnoses of our trees, and unfortunately, we have extensive infestation.

There are a few high quality websites for you to view to read up on this invader. I found the easiest way was to "Google" the issue directly by typing in "eastern hemlock diseases." What you will find is a combination of USDA websites as well as commercial sites that talk about remediation. All seem to conclude the following: the disease is spreading; there are three types of treatment; failure to treat the insect is serious. The USDA website, [www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pestal/hemlock](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pestal/hemlock) is probably the most independent and reliable. Some arborists and experts think that the warmer winters have encouraged the spread of the Wooly.

The arborists that we contacted recommended either the direct injection of insecticide into the trunks of the trees, or a soil injection method. These processes have been used in the Flat Rock area for a couple of years, according to the arborists. The processes seem to remedy the problem for the

year in which the insecticide is used, but often multiple year applications are needed.

The trunk injection method is effective more immediately, however, it is the more expensive of the methods. Some arborists indicate that the soil injection method has a longer lasting effect than the trunk injection method. Sound confusing? Consult with several arborists and go with the method that seems most suitable for your own situation.

The timing of treatment is dependent upon a number of factors. First, the weather needs to be warm for the most effective treatment. Secondly, the health of each tree needs to be evaluated in determining the best treatment. Thirdly, the size of the tree determines whether or not soil or trunk injection is preferable.

You can do your own survey of hemlocks in your yard by looking under the needle clusters and see if you have any small, whitish eggs that have been laid near the stem of the leaves. Look carefully because your infestation may not be too widespread at this point. If you don't have too much infestation, the treatment may be much more effective.

Just when you were wondering what to do with the extra money, along comes the Wooly Adelgid...