

THE CONCERNED CITIZEN

Exposing the hard truth about Franklin County

CONCERNING ISSUE 6

Who holds the hope for Franklin County in their Hands?

Will our hope for the future be found in additional Georgia water revitalizing the diminishing oyster industry? Or in a new hospital with paying patients who help to create and ensure a profitable future for county health care? Should there be an expanded charter school campus moved to the vacant county work camp? Or will County and City government employment further expand its increasing umbrella to cover everyone not already working in the public sector?

But no matter what economic and educational factors try to improve and grow our county, it is the people who live and want to work here that must make the real difference. Education can only improve if local 'customers' demand quality for themselves and their children, vigilantly overseeing it, supporting and participating in it. Successful economic development will only happen when county-wide leadership changes old attitudes and learns to welcome outsiders who bring with them enthusiasm and opportunities. Taxation will only become more realistic when a broadened economic base develops fair funding for well planned, cost-effective, legitimate and carefully controlled county services. Successful local government of the future here must mandate honest and constructive public service that highlights Franklin County as a good place to live, work and invest.

Change must not be feared or ignored, but rather cultivated and mastered. Today's oyster industry produces small shadows of storied, plate-sized oysters from long-ago days. Shrimp can be found and grown cheaper elsewhere. It is no longer possible to walk across the river from shrimp boat deck to deck. Scallops and sponges and multiple party boat charters have disappeared. The days of the Tarpon bringing mail and business and sightseers and cargo are over. The days of the railroad carrying fish and oysters and cotton and lumber to far flung up-north and across-the-sea destinations are gone. The lumber mills have disappeared. Early natives with their commerce and settlements are long gone. Even more recent opportunistic developers have left seeking greener prosperity.

So what is it that remains constant in Franklin County? It is the families with their strong ties to the sea and the land, and to their roots and religious traditions? It can be found in newer settlers who come for different reasons; some for commerce, others for retirement, ecotourism or just to relax from a busy lifestyle. But is it also the real destruction within the nuclear family. It is local great-grandparents caring for their grandchildren's offspring with love and determination while sadly feeling anger, disappointment and often poverty. It is a biological mother and father who fail to fulfill parental responsibilities to the children they spawned during careless, irresponsible behavior. It is dishonesty, nepotism, cronyism and cover ups in governmental offices. It is family hiring family/friends/neighbors whenever the opportunity presents itself to further self-interest and ongoing personal security using their governmental positions.

Will the future in Franklin county see today's children growing and struggling to raise their families of tomorrow just as their own parents are currently doing at barely subsistence levels? Will the generations still be separated by jail and drugs and irresponsibility and absenteeism as they are today? Will there be a fourth and fifth generation of welfare parents whose offspring are innocently illegitimate? Will there be the continued apathy – or a sense of hopelessness - toward future possibilities that could instead be improved by constructive changes in education, employment, leadership and personal self-improvement?



Will tomorrow's residents continue to look for someone else such as family, society or government to blame for their own personal conditions and inadequacies? An experienced observer recently said of a local Franklin County area that "the extremely impoverished, sick, and disillusioned population is truly growing and devastating... the deeply impoverished is bordering on what a person can see in third world countries." Can this "ghetto neighborhood" description really be true here in Franklin County America, in the land of opportunity for all?

Will you join us and together we can try to help our neighbors find a standard of living that rises above local examples of third world countries, finding instead a future of hope and success? Or will tomorrow's generations here continue to look to others to blame or excuse the responsibility of their very life conditions and status? When an observer comments "I see the youngsters here looking at a dead end street with very little guidance and no future," to whom should those youngsters look for help? Or blame?

When parents say they want somewhere to "send" their children, expecting others to teach the values and behavior necessary for a productive and educated society in our communities, we need to look long and hard at where we are in Franklin County, and how we got this way.

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 990

Eastpoint, Florida 32328

AllanF@DEC-International.com

ABetterFranklin.com

(850) 653-5571

"Support the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, Inc. in being an important voice for Franklin County citizens. Help support outreach messages such as this and the year round research and advocacy the CCFC does to protect citizen's rights. Please join today; we need your support both financially and in numbers. The CCFC is non-partisan and does not support individual candidates for office."

f LIKE US!

facebook.com/ConcernedCitizensofFranklinCounty

CCFC
Concerned Citizens of Franklin County