

# FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy



MAY 2009

NEWSLETTER

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Conference a Great Success

The Community Coalition for Teens sponsored its very successful 18th Annual Youth Conference “We Unite to Resurface the World” on Thursday April 16, 2009 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Shelburne Falls, MA. This year, over 300 youth and adults attended the conference, coming from all public school districts in Franklin County and the North Quabbin, several Berkshire County districts, the Academy at Charlemont, and several youth programs from throughout Western Massachusetts. A group of students from Mohawk Trail Regional High School and the Academy at Charlemont worked continuously from December on to plan all aspects of the conference. These young people determined the conference theme and principal issues, reviewed and approved workshop proposals, publicized the conference, arranged food and materials, and planned the use of space.

The day began with an introduction by the Youth Conference Planning Committee, followed by an inspiring welcome by Mohawk Principal Brian Beck. Then the Conflict Resolution Theater Group from Franklin County Technical School took the stage for an interactive theater piece, written by the students themselves and addressing teen issues, which was very well received by the conference participants.

Participants continued the day by attending two workshops of their choice out of 16 available. This year’s workshops covered a variety of topics, including, but not limited to: employment opportunities for teens, homelessness, GLBTQ issues, fostering communication, crisis response, addressing discrimination, mental health, dating relationships and the environment. Presenters included youth/staff from, Community Action Youth Programs, the Brick House, Dial/Self, NELCWIT, most Franklin County and North Quabbin school districts, and other local agencies and businesses.

The Mohawk Select Chorus performed two songs during the conference closing, and then participants reviewed the conference with a slide show of photos taken throughout the day.

CCT wishes to express thanks to Principal Brian Beck and all Mohawk staff for providing an excellent venue for the youth conference and for all their support in making the conference happen. Special thanks to Mike Johansmeyer, this year’s Youth Conference Coordinator, and his team of student planners, who worked very hard behind the scenes to present a seamless conference for the participants.

The conference is funded by participation fees and private donations. This year’s generous donors were the Western Massachusetts Out of School Time Network, the Bank of Western Massachusetts, Channing Bete Company, Cohn and Company Real Estate, The Greenfield Cooperative Bank, the People’s Pint and the Brick House Community Resource Center. A grant from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services Drug Free Communities Support Program funds staff time to facilitate the youth conference planning committee.



CCT Annual Conference Tech Performance

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## Bike Commute Week is May 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

May 9<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup> is Pioneer Valley Bike Commute Week. This is a great time to get your bicycle out of storage, dust it off and use it for a routine trip instead of driving your car. There are many fun bicycling related events scheduled throughout the Pioneer Valley during Bike Commute Week. The events include free breakfasts, lunches and movie nights with bicycling themed movies. Bicycle World, located at 104 Federal Street in Greenfield, is hosting their annual lunch for bicyclists from 12:00 -2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. A full list of the events is included on the MassBike website <http://www.massbike.org/mbpv/bikeweek/index.html>.

### Bicycling "green" facts

Did you know?

*One Percent (1%) of trips in the U.S. are made by bike. Increasing bicycling from 1% to 1.5% of all trips in the U.S. would save 462 million gallons of gasoline each year. (Source: Chicagoland Bicycle Federation)*

*Nearly 40% of trips in the U.S. are two miles or less—the perfect length for a bike ride. 38% of all trips are made in single occupancy cars. (Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics)*

*Someone who bikes four miles round-trip to work instead of driving keeps 51 pounds of carbon monoxide out of the air each year and burns 36,000 calories—the equivalent of 10 pounds of fat. (Sources: Smarttrips and Caloriesperhour.com)*

For further information please contact Senior Transportation Planner, Elizabeth Giannini at 413-774-1194 ext. 104 or [giannini@frcog.org](mailto:giannini@frcog.org).

## Cooperative Purchasing Updates

The FRCOG Purchasing Department has developed a new cooperative bid for Elevator Maintenance Service. This is a one year contract with option to renew for two more years. The bid prices we received were very competitive and will be saving the participating towns a good deal of money. Nineteen towns and non-profits participated in the FY2010 Fuel Bids for heating oil, diesel fuel, and gasoline. A.R. Sandri Co., Dennis K. Burke Inc., and Whiting Energy Fuels will be serving the towns for their fuel needs. Several towns will be contracting for fuel under a new "downsize protection / capped price" program this year. Assistance to towns who are dealing with Ice Storm Debris clean-up from the December 2008 storm has been on-going with bids for debris and tree removal to meet FEMA requirements. Spring and Summer highway products and services bids have just "hit the streets". It is a challenging year for towns in budgeting for their highway needs, but volume purchasing on the FRCOG coop bids will help the bottom line. Further information about these projects and programs is available by emailing Andrea Woods at 413-774-3167 ext. 104 or [bids@frcog.org](mailto:bids@frcog.org).

## Homeland Security Funding Opportunities

**Homeland Security Funds for NIMS Maintenance:** The Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) has ongoing funds available for backfill/overtime or volunteer reimbursement for hourly and volunteer first-responders to maintain NIMS compliance. Funding is available for newly promoted, re-assigned staff, newly hired and previously vacant positions. For more information and appropriate forms email Homeland Security Program Manager, Susan Brown, at [sbrown@frcog.org](mailto:sbrown@frcog.org).

## Green Your Routine



Alexis Neubert /Alexis Design

## Traffic Counting Services Offered Free of Charge

The FRCOG has operated and maintained traffic counting equipment since 1991. During that time we have completed over 750 counts on Franklin County roadways, either at the request of our local towns, or to support regional planning efforts being conducted by the FRCOG. The FRCOG operates ten automatic traffic recorders which have the capability to collect total vehicle volume, vehicle classification, and speed data at most locations. The count season typically runs between April and November, during which time anywhere between 80 and 120 counts can be completed. Each count covers at least a seven day period. The results of the counts are logged in a database, from which a Traffic Count Booklet is produced, listing all the counts conducted since 1991. This information can be found on our website at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org) under Transportation Planning.

Traffic counts are provided free of charge to our member municipalities, scheduled on a first come – first served basis. If you would like to schedule some counts for your town, please send a request in writing to Maureen Mullaney, Transportation and GIS Program Manager, 425 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 or by email to [trans@frcog.org](mailto:trans@frcog.org). If you have additional questions, please contact Maureen at 413-774-1194 ext. 108.



## *Tri-State Connecticut River Targeted Watershed Initiative*



## Volunteers Sought for Connecticut River Water Quality

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is seeking volunteers to participate in a water quality monitoring project on the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. A training session to prepare volunteers will be held on **Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the Franklin County Boat Club in Gill.**

The monitoring season will begin Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and will continue twice weekly through the summer. Monitoring responsibilities at each site will be shared by volunteers.

There are six sites to be monitored along the northern reach of the river in Massachusetts: Hatfield Boat Ramp, Sunderland Bridge, Rock Dam in Montague, Bartons Cove in Gill, Munn's Ferry in Gill, and the Northfield/Pauchaug Boat Ramp.

The monitoring project, which includes a total of 26 sites along the river from Agawam, Massachusetts up to Hartford, Vermont, will examine water temperature and bacteria. Data will provide a more complete picture of the river's health and understanding about potential sources of contamination. This information will be useful to recreational users who have direct contact with the water as well as local, state, and federal officials who are working to address potential sources of contamination such as stormwater runoff.

Data from the 2008 sampling season is available on-line at <http://www.umass.edu/tei/mwwp/ctrivermonitoring.html>

The water quality monitoring project is one of 10 Connecticut River projects funded under a Targeted Watershed Initiative grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To volunteer for this project, call P.G., Natural Resources Program Manager, Kimberly Noake MacPhee, at 413-774-1194 ext. 103 or [natres@frcog.org](mailto:natres@frcog.org).

## Alternative Transportation Plan



Transportation Planning staff has begun developing an “Alternative Transportation Plan” for Franklin County. The goal of this report is to examine alternative forms of transportation that could most likely be implemented under the geographic, population, and financial constraints of the county. The provision of other types of travel besides the singly-occupied vehicle is becoming more important as fuel prices continue to climb. This increase in costs could greatly impact Franklin County residents if they have little choice regarding their mode of travel.

The timing of this plan is also appropriate because of a series of studies that the FRCOG has recently completed and projects that have begun in the region that focus on alternative transportation, including: bicycling, passenger rail, and park and ride. When it is completed, the Franklin County Transit Center will also be an important step in promoting alternative transportation in the county. This plan provides the opportunity to step back and comprehensively look at past transportation studies and what progress has been made towards bringing other forms of transportation to the county. In addition, staff will evaluate current resources and assess future needs to determine what types of alternative transportation may work best for Franklin County.

It is anticipated that a draft of this plan will be available in September 2009. For more information on this project, please contact Transportation and Land Use Planner, Megan Rhodes, at 413-774-1194 ext. 110 or [mrhodes@frcog.org](mailto:mrhodes@frcog.org).

## Wellhead Protection Planning in Bernardston

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) was recently awarded a \$24,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection’s 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant Program to assist the Town of Bernardston in preparing a Wellhead Protection Plan, which will ensure that current and future drinking water supplies in the town are protected. Staff from the FRCOG will assist the Bernardston Fire & Water District, town officials, and residents in implementing recommendations made in the Source Water Assessment Report prepared for the town by the MA DEP in 2002.

The project will also evaluate options for protecting the vulnerable wellhead protection areas from potential sources of contamination. FRCOG staff will conduct a field inventory of land uses, prepare GIS maps, and provide technical assistance to the town for developing controls to address potential sources of contamination in the wellhead protection areas and preparing draft updates to the town’s zoning bylaws for water resource protection.

The project will commence this summer. The town will be establishing a committee in the coming months to assist with developing the Wellhead Protection Plan. If you are a resident, business owner or farmer interested in serving on the committee, please contact the Bernardston Selectmen’s office at 413-648-5401 or P.G., FRCOG Natural Resources Program Manager, Kimberly Noake MacPhee, at 413-774-1194 ext. 103 or [natres@frcog.org](mailto:natres@frcog.org).



## Franklin County Towns Cooperate on Alcohol Compliance Checks

On April 1, 2009 the Buckland Police Department worked with the police departments of Shelburne, Charlemont and Heath, to conduct alcohol compliance checks of those 4 towns, that resulted in a 100% compliance rate of the 14 establishments that were checked in the towns. The Orange Police Department and the Community Coalition for Teens assisted with the effort.

On March 14, 2009 the Bernardston Police Department, with the assistance of the Orange Police Department and the Community Coalition for Teens, conducted alcohol compliance checks that resulted in a 100% compliance rate of the 6 establishments that were checked in their town.

On December 8, the Orange police department conducted alcohol beverage compliance checks in Orange and Gill, resulting in 11 compliant establishments of 12 establishments checked. Assistance was provided by the Community Coalition for Teens and the Massachusetts Alcohol Beverage Compliance Commission.

All of these compliance operations were implemented by a unique collaboration between a youth substance abuse prevention coalition, and nine Franklin County towns signed onto the Franklin County Alcohol Beverages Compliance Initiative, Memorandum of Understanding. The Communities that Care Coalition worked to promote this MOU for Franklin County towns willing to work together on the enforcement of underage drinking laws. Bernardston, Orange, Gill, Shelburne, Buckland, Heath, Whately, Deerfield and Charlemont have all signed on to the MOU.

The Communities that Care Coalition has identified that Franklin County young people are not getting the message that adults disapprove of underage drinking. Regular compliance checks have been proven to send this message loud and clear.

The Community Coalition for Teens, a program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and co-hosts of The Communities that Cares Coalition, receives funding from the Bureau of Substance Abuse Service to help with the effort, and is able to reimburse police departments for overtime associated with the checks. CCT also assists with some logistics coordination and recruitment of undercover shoppers.

After successfully implementing their own checks, the Orange Police Department provided hands-on technical assistance to the subsequent police departments around the procedures and protocols of compliance checks.

“Police departments demonstrate a great amount of dedication and concern around the issues of underage drinking as exemplified by the actions of these collaborating towns” says, Glenn Johnson, a staff member of CCT, and co-chair of the Communities that Care Laws and Norms Workgroup. “We are hoping that other towns will sign and use the MOU.” For more information about compliance checks and the MOU, contact Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Glenn Johnson, at 413-774-1194 ext. 117 or [glennj@frcog.org](mailto:glennj@frcog.org).

## Free Nicotine Patch Giveaway Program



*Those standing are Rachel Stoler and Glenn Johnson, CCT, Brian Eno of Healthy Connections at Community Action, and Gretchen Latowsky of JSI, Inc. all provided technical assistance.*

Between New Year's Eve and February 28, the Community Coalition for Teens worked to promote the free nicotine patch giveaway program that has been advertised on buses, billboards, radio ads, TV ads and in newspapers and newsletters. The program was conducted through funding from the Mass Department of Public Health.

We set an ambitious goal to have 365 calls for free patches from Franklin County/North Quabbin residents who wanted help to quit smoking. We are happy to report that 422 of our friends and neighbors called and took an important first step toward quitting smoking.

People who get support and use medicines like the patch are more than twice as likely to be able to quit for good as those who try to quit on their own, so these Franklin County/North Quabbin residents are well on their way to living smoke-free lives.

In addition to those brave folks who made that call, we would like to thank all of our partners, who are too numerous to name in this article. You helped us get the word out about this special offer. Special thanks go out to Senator Rosenberg, Representative Donelan, and Representative Kulik for their support. Greenfield Community College, Franklin County Community Meals Program, and the Starry Starry Night Planning Committee also went above and beyond. Finally thanks to all the businesses that included promotional material with their payroll. You had a huge impact.

If you missed this special giveaway program, you can still call 1-800-TRY-TO-STOP and get support and information on quitting smoking. You can also visit [www.Makesmokinghistory.org](http://www.Makesmokinghistory.org), or join a smoking cessation group at Athol Memorial Hospital, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, or the Community Health Center of Franklin County.

Thanks again to everyone doing their part to make smoking history!

For more information or questions, contact Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Glenn Johnson, at 413-774-1194 ext. 117 or [glennj@frcog.org](mailto:glennj@frcog.org).

## Energy Saving Performance Contracting

The First-in-the-Commonwealth regional project to provide energy saving services to 16 participating Towns and 3 regional school districts (RSDs) in Franklin County continues to move forward. Each participating Town and RSD has received a preliminary energy audit (PEA) from the selected energy service company (ESCO), Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. The Town of Orange is the first to contract with Siemens for the next step in the process, an investment grade audit (IGA) which will provide the Town with detailed costs for improvements and the resulting energy savings that Siemens will guarantee.

A second regional project for 6 additional Towns and 2 RSDs is progressing. A kick-off meeting was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> and Siemens Building Technologies was selected by the participants. Siemens has agreed to hold to the same offer of service and pricing received in the first round. This will allow for Siemens to simplify its process across 22 Towns and 5 RSDs as one project.

As in the first round, each second round participant will receive generic contract documents from the FRCOG for use in contracting for energy saving audits of their facilities. Each document was negotiated with Siemens and was reviewed by both a municipal and a school legal counsel.

The development of specific contract documents will proceed directly between Siemens and each individual participating Town and RSD. The first step is a free preliminary energy audit, followed by the more detailed investment grade audit (IGA). If the parties agree, the final step is implementation of the recommendations in the IGA with costs to be paid for with energy savings guaranteed by Siemens.

FRCOG staff will be working with Siemens and project participants to explore various ideas for funding, including aggregating smaller projects with the goal to market them for more advantageous funding rates. For details contact, Director of Regional Services, Bob Dean, at [bdean@frcog.org](mailto:bdean@frcog.org).

## Celebration of the Groundbreaking of the Franklin Regional Transit Center

After years of work on the part of the FRCOG, FRTA, local legislators, and many others, the Franklin Regional Transit Center had a groundbreaking ceremony on April 17. In attendance to celebrate the event was Governor Deval Patrick, Congressman John Olver, Senator Stan Rosenberg, Representatives Chris Donelan, Steve Kulik and Dan Bosley, Dick Doyle of the Federal Transit Administration, and approximately 100 others. The Franklin Regional Transit Center will be an intermodal transportation hub for Franklin County, will house the offices of the FRTA and FRCOG, and will be a net zero energy consumption building. The project is receiving \$12.8 million of federal Economic Recovery funds (federal stimulus funding) because it is such a unique and important project. The Transit Center will be one of the first net zero energy public buildings in Massachusetts and one of the first such transit centers in the nation. The project will catalyze millions of dollars of additional investment in downtown Greenfield by moving FRCOG staff out of the Franklin County Courthouse so that renovation project can more easily move forward and will be the first completed projects in Greenfield's Bank Row Urban Renewal District. It was in recognition of these important assets that the project received federal stimulus funding.



The project is in the schematic design phase by the architecture firm of Charles Rose Associates. The former Toyota of Greenfield building will be demolished in the next few weeks and site work on the parcel located at the corners of Bank Row and Olive Street will begin shortly after. Construction of the building should begin in early fall and will take a bit more than a year to complete. It is an exciting project and we will use this newsletter to provide regular progress updates. For more information, contact Executive Director, Linda Dunlavy at 413-774-3167 ext. 103 or [lindad@frcog.org](mailto:lindad@frcog.org).

### FRCOG Council Representatives for FY 2009

Ashfield	Dave Deherdt	Montague	Patricia Allen
Bernardston	Stanley Garland	New Salem	Jennifer Sandova
Buckland	Stefan Racz	Northfield	Kathleen Wright
Charlemont	Paul Fantucchio	Orange	Rick Kwiatkowski
Colrain	Duane Scranton	Rowe	James Brown
Conway	Tom Spiro	Shelburne	John Payne
Deerfield	John Paciorek	Shutesbury	F. Ellen McKay, Chair
Erving	Thomas Sharp, Vice Chair	Sunderland	Tom Fydenkevez
Gill	Nancy Griswold	Warwick	Frederick Abbott
Greenfield	Christine Forgey	Wendell	Nina Keller
Hawley	Philip Keenan	Whately	Lynn Sibley
Heath	Thomas Lively	FRPB Rep.	Sam Lovejoy, Secretary
Leverett	Gordon Fretwell	Reg. Elected	Ann Banash
Leyden	Michele Giarusso	Reg. Elected	Bill Perlman
Monroe	David Nash		

## FORUMS/MEETINGS/SEMINARS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
May 9	8:30 AM	Emergency Preparedness	GCC Downtown Campus 270 Main Street Greenfield	Thomas Williams
May 14	8:30 AM	Emergency Preparedness	GCC Downtown Campus 270 Main Street Greenfield	Nina Martin Anzuoni
May 14	5:00 PM	FRCOG Executive Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
May 14	5:30 PM	CEDS Committee & EDD Governing Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Jessica Atwood
May 14	6:00 PM	Public Forum to Discuss the Draft Mohawk Trail East Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan	Montague Town Hall Upstairs Meeting Room 1 Avenue A Turners Falls	Beth Giannini
May 15	11:00 AM	FRCOG Highway Products and Services Bids	Room 205 Courthouse Greenfield	Andrea Woods
May 15	1:00 PM	FRCOG Highway Products and Services Bids	Room 205 Courthouse Greenfield	Andrea Woods
May 19	7:00 PM	Rte. 112 Regional Scenic Byway Advisory Committee	Buckland Town Hall 2nd Floor Meeting Room William Street Entrance	Melissa Adams
May 28	6:00 PM	MAPHCO Steering Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Thomas Williams
May 28	7:00 PM	Franklin Regional Planning Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Peggy Sloan
May 29	1:00 PM	Request for Proposals for Lease of Office Space in Greenfield	Room 20 Courthouse Greenfield	Andrea Woods
June 11	5:00 PM	FRCOG Executive Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
June 11	5:30 PM	CEDS Committee & EDD Governing Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Jessica Atwood
June 25	6:00 PM	MAPHCO Steering Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Thomas Williams
June 25	7:00 PM	Franklin Regional Planning Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Peggy Sloan
July 1	1:30 PM	Brownfields Program Steering Committee	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Jessica Atwood
July 7	3:30 PM	REPC Quarterly Meeting	FC Sheriff's Training Room 160 Elm Street Greenfield	Thomas Williams
July 9	5:00 PM	FRCOG Executive Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy
July 23	6:00 PM	MAPHCO Steering Committee	Room 102 Courthouse Greenfield	Thomas Williams
July 23	7:00 PM	Franklin Regional Planning Board	278 Main Street 1st Floor Greenfield	Peggy Sloan
July 30	5:30 PM	FRCOG Council Meeting	GCTV Studios 393 Main Street Greenfield	Linda Dunlavy