

BALE TO BOLT

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of Bale to Bolt, your go-to source for updates, insights, and local news affecting the Town of Franklinville.

*"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE
SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED
EQUAL."*

— THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776

Calendar

- 8/10 Board of Commissioners Meeting @ 7:00pm, Town Hall
- 8/25 Free Community Dinner @ 4:30–7:00pm, Franklinville UMC
- 9/12 Car Show, Riverside Park (time TBA)
- 9/14 Board of Commissioners Meeting @ 7:00pm, Town Hall
- 9/26 Car Show, Riverside Park (time TBA)
- 9/29 Free Community Dinner @ 4:30–7:00pm, Franklinville UMC
- 10/10 Heritage Day, Riverside Park (time TBA)
- 10/12 Board of Commissioners Meeting @ 7:00pm, Town Hall
- 10/15 Ribbon Cutting: Bush Creek Trailhead @ 4:00pm
- 10/17 Franklinville Recognized as an Official NC "Trail Town" — Great Trails State Day
- 10/27 Free Community Dinner @ 4:30–7:00pm, Franklinville UMC

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

There's a particular kind of pride that comes from watching your town step onto a bigger stage without losing what makes it small. That's what Franklinville felt on July 5th, gathered in Riverside Park for America's Potluck, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence alongside communities across the country. Long tables full of dishes that only taste like home, kids running between them, neighbors catching up over paper plates — if one afternoon could capture this town, that would be it.

It felt fitting that we celebrated beneath our new mural downtown, brought to life by artist Bobby Goffredo as part of the statewide Flags Across North Carolina project. Two hundred and fifty years of American history, our own Revolutionary War roots, and the railroad and mill that built this town — all of it now painted on a wall you can walk past on Main Street. It's the kind of thing that stops you for a second, and it should keep stopping people for years to come.

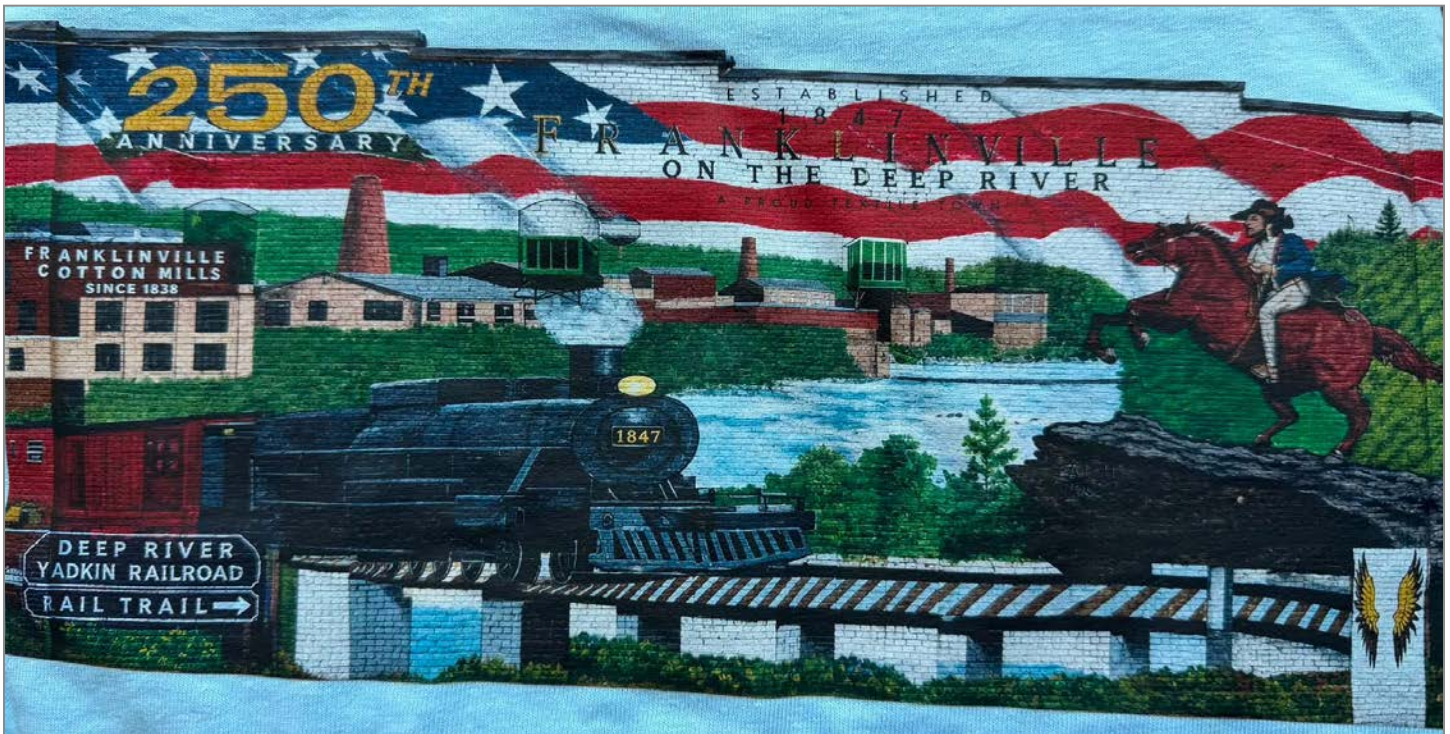
Franklinville is a small town. But small has never meant quiet, and it has certainly never meant done. This community has spent the last few months rebuilding what's been lost, planning for what's next, and still finding time to gather over a potluck on a Sunday afternoon. That's not a coincidence — that's who we are.

There's real work ahead: growth to plan for, infrastructure to maintain, a church to rebuild wall by wall. But Franklinville tends to meet big moments the way it meets ordinary ones — together. Here's to this town: small, mighty, and just getting started on our next 250.



Franklinville, ready for the 250th

A MURAL FOR THE AGES: FRANKLINVILLE PAINTS ITS WAY INTO 250 YEARS OF HISTORY



This summer, downtown Franklinville got a permanent reminder of just how far this town has come. Local artist Bobby Goffredo spent five weeks — May 18 through June 23 — transforming the side of the old company store on Main Street into a mural spanning the town's history: the founding of the cotton mill in 1838 and the town's incorporation in 1847, the railroad that once carried its name across the state, and Andrew Hunter's legendary ride down Faith Rock. Building owners Vicki and Ray Caudle of Ramseur offered up the wall; Commissioner Billy Farias spearheaded getting it painted.

The mural is part of the statewide Flags Across North Carolina project, marking America's 250th birthday, and it does double duty as a photo stop — Goffredo built a set of angel wings into the design at ground level, made for exactly the kind of picture you'll want to post.

The town unveiled the finished piece the same weekend it hosted America's Potluck in Riverside Park on July 5th, joining communities across the country in marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. Long tables, homemade dishes, and a mural-themed contest — guess how many cans of paint it took, or find the objects hidden in the design — turned an already good afternoon into one Franklinville won't forget. Winners walked away with cash, gift certificates, and Franklinville 250th T-shirts.

Between the mural and the potluck, it was a weekend that said a lot about this town: proud of where it's been, and not shy about celebrating it.



America's Potluck, Riverside Park, July 5

5 WEEKS

of painting

1838 & 1847

mill & town founding

JULY 5

mural + potluck day

BRAINSTORMING THE POSSIBILITIES: FRANKLINVILLE'S NEXT 5 YEARS

Franklinville is forming a local work group that will begin meeting regularly to help define what the town wants to look like over the next five years — from downtown revitalization to attracting new businesses and building on recent momentum like the new Main Street mural and the Deep River Trail.

The group will be advised by a representative from the NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center, a program of the NC Department of Commerce that provides no-cost planning and technical assistance to small towns across the state through its Small Town Main Street track.

Look for updates on the group's meeting schedule, progress, and how residents can get involved in future issues of Bale to Bolt.



GROWTH ALL AROUND US

Randolph County's biggest headline of the year keeps getting bigger. Toyota's \$14 billion battery plant in Liberty celebrated its grand opening in November, and the company has since added another \$8 billion in investment and 3,000 more jobs at the site. A few miles away, Wolfspeed's new Siler City facility is gearing up to supply components for those same batteries.

None of that growth stays contained to Liberty and Siler City. Water lines tied to the project run through Franklinville and Ramseur on their way to serving the new industry — a reminder that what happens at the county's biggest job sites still runs through our town's pipes, roads, and budget conversations. It's growth worth watching closely, which is exactly why Franklinville has kept its own infrastructure moving forward, too.



FRANKLINVILLE EARNS OFFICIAL "TRAIL TOWN" STATUS

Franklinville just picked up a title that's been years in the making. VisitNC has designated the town an official "Trail Town," recognition it will formally receive at the Great Trails State Day celebration on October 17.

The designation caps off a run of trail investment made possible by a simple fix: Randolph County agreed to front the cash and handle the paperwork for federal and state trail grants that Franklinville and other small towns couldn't afford to pay for upfront. That move helped unlock \$319,055 toward Franklinville's \$1.18 million Bush Creek Bridge project, completed in 2025, plus funding now underway for the Bush Creek Trailhead and the Sandy Creek Bridge connecting Franklinville to Ramseur. Combined with projects in Ramseur and Randleman, the county turned roughly \$1 million of its own strategic planning funds into \$1.7 million in outside grants for Deep River Trail projects.

"It would have been impossible without the help," Town Clerk and Finance Officer Beverly O'Brien told Acme News.

Once the Harlan Creek Bridge in Ramseur is finished, you'll be able to walk or bike a continuous four miles from downtown Franklinville to downtown Ramseur along the Deep River.



A HOT JOB WELL DONE: DOWNTOWN SIDEWALKS GET A FRESH POUR



Mid-July, the Town's maintenance crew took on a hot job: tearing out the crumbling sidewalk in front of the Diner and along the library's side parking lot, then building fresh forms in the middle of a serious heat wave.

By the time the concrete truck rolled in, the crew was ready — pouring and smoothing two of downtown's most-walked stretches into safer, better-looking sidewalks. Thank you to the Maintenance Department for pushing through the heat to get it done.

"Thank you to the Maintenance Department for pushing through the heat to get it done."

FROM THE RUBBLE, A FOUNDATION: CHURCH REBUILD MOVES FORWARD

Nearly three years after a wall gave way and took down much of the historic sanctuary, Franklinville United Methodist Church has reached a milestone members have been waiting on: construction crews are now pouring the new foundation, marking the official start of the physical rebuild.

The congregation has spent the years since the 2023 collapse worshipping out of its fellowship hall under the leadership of Pastor Michèle Brown Hill, while working with the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church to plan a rebuild that honors what was lost. Crews were able to save several pieces of the original church during demolition, including sections of the stained glass windows, the steeple cross, an old church Bible, and the baptismal font — each expected to find a place in the new building.



MEET FRANKLINVILLE'S NEWEST LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Franklinville has a new voice on the Randolph County Public Library Board of Trustees: Dr. Michael Johnston, who now represents the town on the board.

A graduate of Campbell University, Johnston has been a licensed pharmacist for more than 20 years and owns and operates an independent pharmacy serving Randolph County. He has also supported the U.S. Army Special Forces' Robin Sage exercise, a key component of the Special Forces Qualification Course, and serves as Lay Minister at Franklinville United Methodist Church. He and his family live in Franklinville.



2025 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Franklinville's 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is out, covering testing done throughout last year and how the town's system compares to state and federal standards. The good news: the town recorded zero violations in 2025, and lead came back non-detect in the latest round of testing.

The full report is available at Town Hall and on the town's website. As always, if you have questions about your water bill, water quality, or service, town staff are glad to help.

LETTERS TO THE TOWN

Have a question or comment for the town? We want to hear it. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

TO HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS CONSIDERED FOR THE NEWSLETTER, WRITE TO:

Town of Franklinville | 203 W Main St | Franklinville, NC 27248

or email: mayoroffranklinville@protonmail.com