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working with Chairman Goodlatte on the House Judiciary Committee to move this bill through the legislative process and restore our fiscal house to order.”

In addition to signing onto the two balanced budget amendments to the Constitution, Collins has become an original co-sponsor for H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act.

The resolution was co-sponsored by Rep. Rob Woodall (R-GA).

The legislation calls for a national consumption based tax and the elimination of the 16th Amendment.

“I campaigned on the need for serious reform to our tax code,” Collins said. “The Fair Tax is the best way to ensure hardworking Americans are able to keep more of their paychecks, and protect those same taxpayers from unjust financial intrusions by the federal government. This bill represents smart, fiscal policy that will provide the means to revolutionize our tax system and help ease the financial burden the Democrats in the Senate and the Obama Administration have placed on American businesses and families.”

Collins also threw his support behind H.R. 6726, the Congressional Pay Freeze and

Fiscal Responsibility Act.

Sponsored by Representative Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), this legislation is a response to an Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama, which enacted a pay increase for Members of Congress and other persons holding positions in the federal government.

H.R. 6726 passed the House 287-129.

“It is truly unbelievable to think President Obama would enlist yet another Executive Order to increase pay for elected officials during the time of financial crisis we currently are facing,” Collins said. “I commend and thank Representative Fitzpatrick for his leadership in drafting this bill, and for bringing the duplicitous actions of the Obama Administration to light. Hardworking, American taxpayers deserve to know their Commander-in-Chief doesn’t take seriously the \$16 trillion of debt we’ve created for ourselves, and more importantly the burden that places on future generations.”

“I look forward to serving with my colleagues in the House like Representative Fitzpatrick who believe it’s time to significantly reduce the spending habits of the federal government and get our country back on track,” Collins said.

# Foster Park...continued from page 1

Looking at the architectural lay-out, Kendall discussed some changes that had previously been discussed and some additional changes he would like to see made.

Doors were a big item on the agenda, or at least the location of the doors and Kendall wants to utilize every bit of space possible, even if it’s just for an additional closet or shelving.

Discussion ensued as to how best to utilize the space while making sure they stay in compliance with state fire codes.

Most of the changes were to allow for more efficient heating and cooling and dealt with exterior doors and windows.

Turpin suggested that windows be left above the walking track to provide a view of the mountains and lake. He also said that the windows they will install are insulated and energy efficient. They are designed to meet compliance with Georgia Energy Code requirements.

“I want to see this place be as energy efficient as possible. We need the best insulation we can get,” said Kendall.

The recreation facility will be more than adequately insulated with R-19 insulation used in the walls and R-30 insulation used in the roof/ceilings according to Lovvorn.

Exterior doors are all solid core, insulated, and sealed which will also help with energy efficiency.

The folding partitions are insulated as well. This will not only help make the facility easier to heat and cool, but will also help with soundproofing.

Turpin requested that Kendall provide a tentative schedule of how the facility would be used and he, in turn, will provide an analysis of projected energy costs based on use.

Lovvorn also reported that acoustical walls with



The Foster Memorial Park recreation facility is meeting Commissioner Kendall's expectations.

sound attenuation (sound insulation) will be utilized to accommodate different functions that may be taking place at the same time. This will be instrumental in helping with noise reduction. In additional discussion regarding changes, Kendall also indicated that he would like to add an additional row of bleachers in the gym area.

This would be a change from the six rows that were originally in place in the plans. Turpin said that they would look at various options.

The plans now are for the bleachers to be power operated. The only concern was having enough head room on the top bleachers, but Turpin and Akins indicated that plans can be revised to accommodate an additional row.

Another possible addition in the discussion phase is a fireplace in the conference room. If the county opts to go with the fireplace it would have a pass through view and would use gas logs. It would be for aesthetic purposes only and not necessarily used as a source of heat.

The fireplace would be visible from the lobby and reception room. This was the first time this has been brought up in

a meeting according to Day.

The discussion of the fireplace was tabled for a later date and time.

Akins gave an update on projected plans to commence next week. They will begin pouring the walking track on Tuesday and hope to pour half of the gym slab as well.

Akins said that they would like to have the whole thing done next week, but this will be contingent on cooperation by the weather.

They can't pour the concrete in rain and below 30 degree temperatures. Roofing on the gym will, weather permitting, be started next week.

Bar joists and decking will be arriving week after next according to Akins.

They will then begin the interior framing.

Kendall insisted in the planning phase that local workers be used for the Foster Memorial Park recreational facility project.

Akins reported that approximately 75 percent of workers for this project are local.

These include sub-contractors and material suppliers.

“We have some real good workers and we have been very impressed with their quality of work,” said Akins.

Kendall returned the compliment by saying, “I am very impressed with the professionalism this group has shown and with the quality of their work. They are very accommodating and easy to work with.”

Kendall also commented on the local workers being used for the project.

“I am very please to see this many local workers being used on this project. During these tough economic times, it is good to know that we are doing our part to help out these good folks.”

The team adjourned the meeting and did a walk through of the work site even though it meant walking through mud at times due to rain from the previous week.

They are hoping that Mother Nature will be more considerate of their work schedule in the weeks ahead.

The project is paid for through funds from voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option sales tax.

# Clubhouse...continued from page 1

eral mitigating factors, a depressed real estate market, the small size of the land – approximately one-fourth acre – the highway encroachment into the property driveway, the right of way of Foggy Bottom Road, the lack of compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act building codes, difficulty with sewer compliance, and lack of adequate parking space, made the property unlikely to be a viable commercial or residential prospect for the foreseeable future.

“In keeping with the spirit of the Friendship Community Club bylaws, a decision was reached to gift the clubhouse to a charitable organization,” said Kowalsky.

Lilly also explained that they put the word out to Friendship Baptist Church and the Towns County Historical Society that the Community Club would consider gifting the property.

The church sent representatives to the Community Club meeting and reported that they had held a meeting and voted unanimously to accept the clubhouse property and be responsible for all maintenance and costs of renovation if the Community Club would consider giving the property to them.

Representatives of the Historical Society also came to the meeting and asked for an extended time of “due diligence” to consider if they could use the property.

After a brief lapse of time, they declined the offer as they did not have the financial resources needed to consider ownership of the clubhouse property.

A general meeting of the Community Club was held on Dec. 13th for a vote of “disposal of the property,” said Lilly.

“The active membership in attendance, and represented

by proxy, equaled 72.6 percent of the total active members,” said Lilly.

The board of directors recommended that the clubhouse be gifted to Friendship Baptist Church. With a motion being made to the membership, they voted unanimously in favor of gifting the property to the church.

“Historically, the organization with the longest attachment to the clubhouse was Friendship Baptist Church.

Church members Steve Holmes, Community Club president, and his late wife Joyce, along with Morris and Loyce Phillips, were instrumental in the early development and growth of the Friendship Community Club, said Kowalsky.

Kowalsky said that the church seemed to be the most appropriate recipient of the clubhouse.

Formed in the 1950s, the Community Club played a significant role in the everyday lives of the people who lived in the Friendship area.

The clubhouse was the hub for community activities.

“The demographics of the area have changed enormously just in the last 20 years since I have been here,” said Kowalsky.

“Folks who moved here have discovered an amazing assortment of activities to be involved in. The Community Club board is always looking for ways to keep our neighborhood club useful, relevant, and moving forward,” said Kowalsky.

“The Friendship Community Club will continue on as an organization for socializing and addressing community issues,” said Pease.

Pease reports that meetings will be held at area restaurants and parks.

# Fowl...continued from page 1

in a pasture beside the lake,” said Moore.

Meadowlarks are not actually supposed to be here this time of year according to Hull.

The Coalition works in Towns and Union counties in North Georgia and Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina to sustain good water quality in our lakes, rivers and streams.

In regard to how this outing fits into the Coalition mission, Moore replied, “The more people learn about our waters and the creatures that live in, on, and around them, the more passionate they become about protecting them. When you see these beautiful ducks feeding in our lake, or hear loons calling in the early morning fog, you want to preserve the water quality so that they will come back year after year.”

Hull teaches courses in Biology, Ecology, Environmental Science and Field Studies at Young Harris College where she is in her 18th year.



If you're going birdwatching, remember, bundle up. It's cold this time of year.

Her primary professional interests lie in the field of ecology, ethology and ornithology. Hull is an avid birder.

She was recently elected to serve as chair of the Coalition's Board of Directors. Hull currently resides in

Clay County. For more details about the Coalition, visit [www.hrwc.net](http://www.hrwc.net) or call (828) 837-5414.

# Making things happen for rural America

By Frank Riley  
Executive Director  
RC&D

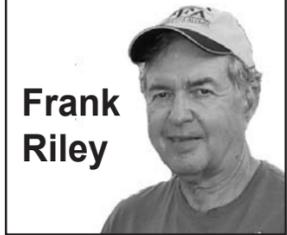
The Chatstatee Chattahoochee RC&D Council has a very successful track record of projects and accomplishments that have improved citizen's lives, helped create jobs, and improved the economies of communities in the 13-county area of North Georgia.

Some examples of past and present projects are:

**Dry Hydrant program** – This project installed “dry” fire hydrants in areas where there were no water lines for “wet” fire Hydrants. This program provided a water source from streams, ponds, and rivers for the county volunteer fire departments to draft water to protect the citizen's property and lives.

**Wheels To Work program** - This program purchases dependable, used vehicles to provide reliable transportation for people who need transportation to get to work. The vehicles are financed with

Executive Director of  
RC&D



zero-interest loans to qualified applicants.

**Revolving Loan Program** – a grant from USDA Rural Development to help establish or expand small businesses in the area for qualified applicants. When the principal is repaid, these funds are available to be loaned again.

**Northeast Georgia Tree Planting Initiative** - The Northeast Georgia “Tree Planting for Ecosystem Restoration and Green Jobs” helped create or retain approximately 42 Green Industry jobs under the GFC's Georgia Growing Green and ARRA Grant Program. The

project enhanced urban areas through reforesting the communities as well as providing storm water and bio-diversity improvements.

**EBT Farmers' Market** - a statewide effort to help make locally grown fruits and vegetables available to SNAP recipients many of whom use debit cards for purchases. Locally grown fruits and vegetables are mostly sold at farmers' markets where electronic card machines are unavailable. The project assists local markets with equipment purchases and training about the legalities of SNAP funds.

**North Georgia Rainkeepers** - a rain barrel program for the 13 county area. While collecting rainwater from downspouts, these barrels also divert water from the municipal storm drain system, thus protecting our rivers and streams from runoff pollution. Every inch of rain that falls on a roof area of 1,000 square feet produces approximately 600 gallons of water.

**EPD 319(h) grants** - The Chatstatee-Chattahoochee Re-

source Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is presently administering water quality 319(h) grants in the Mud Creek/Little Mud Creek and Cold Water Creek watersheds. More on these EPD projects later.

Some other very successful Chest-Chatt projects are:

**Community Outreach Grants**, **Economic Development (Greenhouses)**, **Agritourism**, **No-Till-Drill (pasture restoration)**, **Natural Resource Protection**, **North Fork Broad River - 319(h)**, **Better Back Roads Project**, **Public Recreation Facilities**, **Road Striping**, **Soque River Watershed 319(h)**, **Straw bale Building - Stephens County**, **Timber Bridges**, **Upper Etowah Stream bank Revert**, **Waste paper Recycling**, **Waste wood recycling**, **Water Quality Projects**.

For more details on Chatstatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, visit our Web site [www.chestchattred.org](http://www.chestchattred.org).

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