

## Haywood County “Toeprints”

September 12, 2023

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[www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net)

### What’s Happening?

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform Haywood County Taxpayers of what transpires at the bi-monthly County Commission Meetings. This newsletter will be written from the perspective of a casual observer, myself. Any opinions expressed will be mine.

### Team Waynesville Candidate Profiles.

Team Waynesville is running as a unified team, something rare to happen, if it has ever happened in a municipal election here. However, Team Waynesville only has enough candidates to vote out three of the four Town Council incumbents. A fourth candidate, Ken Hollifield [UNA] is also running, and would provide the mechanism to throw all incumbents out of office.

Campaign material for these candidates appear following this newsletter.

If any name is in **bold**, it can’t be a good thing.

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*Si vis pacem, para bellum*

## MISSION STATEMENT

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**TEAM WAYNESVILLE** understands the unique needs and aspirations of our residents and, when elected as Mayor and members of the Waynesville Town Council, we will work diligently to restore and preserve the small-town values that have always made Waynesville a special place - a place where you can live safely, raise your family without fear of control and influence from outside forces, and peacefully live-out retirement in a thriving town.

For far too long, the Democrat-led Mayor(s) and Town Council have made decisions that have made daily life worse for Waynesville residents. Instead of fixing the myriad of problems that currently exist, they have chosen to govern in a way that solely supports their ideological beliefs - much to the detriment of the greater community.

High-density construction is out-of-control, Waynesville's infrastructure is crumbling, substance abuse, homelessness and crime are skyrocketing, and the Town is deteriorating right before our eyes.

**TEAM WAYNESVILLE** will fight for ALL residents. Since the community's diversity is our strength, we will be open and receptive to your needs. We will not show favoritism or grant preferential treatment to any special interest group or individual. We will not fall prey to intimidation or undue influence, will govern with transparency, and WILL ALWAYS make decisions based on what is the most beneficial for the greater community.

**TEAM WAYNESVILLE** will never play political games. We will work with residents from all walks of life. We hold steadfast commitment to preserve our small-town values and rich cultural heritage. We will work to create a thriving community that will be the foundation of our community's success for years to come.

**Joey Reece**  
Candidate for Mayor

**Peggy Hannah**  
Candidate for Town Council

**Tre' Franklin**  
Candidate for Town Council

**Stephanie Sutton**  
Candidate for Town Council

# JOEY REECE

## CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR



Born in Waynesville to Francis and Sue Reece, a Waynesville Police officer, and elementary school "lunchroom lady," I am graduate of Tuscola High School and a proud product of the Haywood County Public School System. I grew up in both the best of times and the best of places, for the small-town atmosphere and values of Waynesville were reminiscent of Mayberry, the fictional North Carolina town. Shaped by what I was taught in church, school, the community, and at home, I learned values such as hard work, honesty, loyalty, perseverance, and service. These small-town values have continued to guide and shape me throughout my life.

Being the first in our family to attend college, I graduated from Western Carolina University with a BS in Business Administration. There, I met, Dale Shelton, the love of my life, after she had locked her keys in her apartment, and I crawled through the window to get them. She is the greatest blessing of all the many that God has given me, and we just celebrated 41 years of marriage.

Following in my father's footsteps, I became a 39-year public servant, and proudly served this town, the state of North Carolina as a NCSHP Trooper, and the United States of America. My law enforcement career took me from working the graveyard shift at the Waynesville PD to Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Headquarters in Washington, DC, where I was selected to be part of the Special Operations Division (SOD) and promoted to Section Chief-in-Charge of a global program with an annual budget in excess of \$20 million. From Headquarters, I was selected to be an Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of the DEA New Orleans Field Division, responsible for all DEA operations in the state of Mississippi, a position I held until mandatory retirement.

I entered the private sector and served as Director of Investigations for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Tennessee, then a \$9 billion dollar a year enterprise. Taking the opportunity to return to "my calling," I was chosen to be a Deputy Director of Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program (AHIDTA), a federal program targeting the Opioid crisis in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Southern Virginia, and we moved to Knoxville, where I was in charge of all HIDTA operations in Tennessee.

Retirement brought me back home, where we built a home on the same lot in town where I was raised. I am a member of the Orchard Church Security Team, Haywood County Beekeepers Association, Cataloochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and Dale and I tend the Dahlia Garden at the historic Shelton House, which was built by her great-great-uncle.

Over the past four years, I have seen the leaders of this town make decisions based solely on a political ideology which is contrary to our small-town values and devoid of any common sense. They are intent on following the lead of Asheville, which has now earned the distinction of being included in the top 10% of most violent cities in America, rife with out-of-control growth, addiction, homelessness, violence, and crime. We must not let this happen. Waynesville is worth fighting for!!!!

TEAM WAYNESVILLE



# TRE' FRANKLIN

## CANDIDATE FOR WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Born and raised in Haywood County, my parents, Butch Franklin and Beth Justice, ensured that I was raised with small-town values. My wife, Brooke, and I have been married for 13 years and are promoting the same values for our four children. As a family, we attend Pinnacle Church, and it is there that I realized God's purpose for my life - to give back to my community.

I attended Haywood Community College and received an Associates degree in both General Education and Criminal Justice. In 1993, I joined the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and, until retirement in 2021, worked as a Field Training Officer and General Instructor teaching collision investigation to the Highway Patrol Basic Schools.

While working and raising a family, I have been active in a variety of community activities, including a coach for Waynesville Little League for the past 18 years, coach of the Bethel Sportsman Club for the last nine years, and am currently the Treasurer for Blue Ridge Friends of the NRA.

I am very concerned for the future of Waynesville and the direction that it is currently headed, and feel the small-town values we grew up with are being threatened. This serves as the basis for why I decided to run for Town Council, where my goal will be to improve the transparency in Waynesville's governance so that all of the town's citizens will know how and what the Town Council is doing.

It is critical that WE become an informed community and that WE WORK TOGETHER to ensure that Waynesville regains its small-town values that will carry it successfully into the future.

TEAM WAYNESVILLE



# STEPHANIE SUTTON

## Candidate for Waynesville Town Council

Born in Stone Mountain, Georgia and raised in a blue-collar, middle-class family, I had the best of both worlds growing up in this suburb of Atlanta. Although we had quick access to big city activities, I enjoyed the benefits of living in a close-knit community with small town values. I am proud to say that I have been a resident of Haywood County for 32 years, 30 of those being in the Town of Waynesville.

In 1994, I graduated from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders, and, in 1996, obtained a Masters of Science in Communication Disorders. As a fully licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, I worked at Thoms Rehabilitation Hospital where I treated patients in the areas of speech/language/cognitive/swallowing difficulties resulting from stroke, traumatic brain injury, and other medical conditions affecting communication.

My career path then took me to Haywood County Schools, where, as a Speech-Language Pathologist, I worked with students at Central and Clyde Elementary. When my son, Jack, was born in 2001, I became a full-time mother and continued freelance work as a PRN speech-language pathologist. I continue to hold an active license in that field of work. Now that my two children are older, I have transitioned into the role of full-time business owner/entrepreneur for our family-owned company.

My husband, Heath, a Registered Respiratory Therapist, worked at Haywood Regional Medical Center for 15 years. In October 2003, we opened Mountaineer Oxygen Services, Inc. in Waynesville and later opened a second location in Sylva. I currently serve as Vice President where I maintain contractual relationships with insurance payers, supervise our billing practices, assist with governmental compliance and accreditation for both offices, and work alongside our ten-member staff to deliver home medical needs of those in Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Graham, Cherokee, Clay, and Macon Counties. We treat our patients like family and continually strive to provide compassionate and personal care. Heath and I have always embraced our business as a ministry and continue to feel blessed and humbled to provide much needed services to our neighbors and community.

Our son, Jack, is a senior at Milligan University in Tennessee where he plays baseball, and our daughter, Anna Kate, is a junior at Tuscola High School.

Although being a wife and mother are always my top priorities, being involved in the community is also extremely important. I served as the treasurer for the Waynesville Middle School Booster Club; served as an Asheville Christian Academy Parent Advisor; served on the Economic Stability subcommittee of the Waynesville Homelessness Task Force; currently serve on the Advisory Board of Haywood Haven; and am the founder of NC Moms for Change. Since focusing on beautification projects within the town limits is incredibly important to me, I am also an active organizer and participant in ongoing litter and encampment clean-up efforts in Waynesville. We must work harder to maintain our streets, parks and sidewalks to complement the beauty of our mountains.

I am running for a seat on the Town Council because I love Waynesville. I possess strong interpersonal and business skills that will enable me to effect much needed change in how our Town is governed. Waynesville is MY COMMUNITY! Waynesville is YOUR COMMUNITY! TOGETHER we will work together to ensure that it reaches its full potential.

**TEAM WAYNESVILLE**

**PEGGY HANNAH  
FOR  
WAYNESVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL**



I am proud to be a Waynesville native, having attended Hazelwood Elementary School and Waynesville Junior High. After dropping out of school, I returned to obtain my GED.

I have been happily married to my husband, Robert, for 52 years, and we live in Hazelwood with our two spoiled Great Danes. Not only did Robert and I raise our son here, but Davey and his wife raised their daughter here, and I am even more proud that my granddaughter is a sixth-generation Waynesville resident.

I was blessed to have loved the places I worked. I worked in the healthcare field for many years, cooked at the Jarrett House in Dillsboro for 11 years, and worked in production at Haywood Vocational Opportunities until 2001, when I left the work force due to illness.

I enjoy working in my yard and love helping others. In 2002, I began volunteering within the community. I volunteered at Saint John's Daycare and Hazelwood Elementary school tutoring math and reading, as well as with Waynesville Little League Softball, eventually serving as president of girls' division. Unfortunately, in 2012, I stepped aside to care for my brother, who required round-the-clock palliative care.

After the passing of my brother, I began to volunteer again. I managed a program that prepared food boxes for the Waynesville Police Department and the Haywood County Sheriff's Department to deliver to the elderly and families in need. In 2018, as drug use, homelessness and crime began to significantly increase, I became a voice for the people of Waynesville – a community warrior fighting against harm reduction efforts and other enabling forces.

In addition to currently serving as a member of the Town of Waynesville Planning Board, I am also Vice President of the Hazelwood Boosters, where we organize activities to bring people together as a community. Both of these opportunities have provided me with valuable experience, knowledge and insight into a variety of matters that will serve as a strong foundation for serving on the Town Council.

Over the last two years, I received many requests to run for local office, which I initially brushed aside. As our town continued to decline, I prayed for guidance, asking "if it is your will for me to run, please send me a strong team to run with." God answered my prayers.

I am honored to be running with Joey Reece for Mayor, and Tre' Franklin and Stephanie Sutton, who are also seeking seats on the Town Council. We love Waynesville and, as a united team, are invested in its future and want to see it retain its unique charm.

I understand that no one person has all of the answers to the problems and issues we face. As we move forward, WE, as a community, must work together to solve the problems that currently plague Waynesville so that we can we all experience a better tomorrow. I am confident that, TOGETHER, we can affect much needed change for our special town. I promise to continue to listen to your concerns and, as I have done for the past few years, to fight for the citizens of Waynesville. Along with Joey, Tre' and Stephanie, WE WILL BE YOUR VOICE!!

**TEAM WAYNESVILLE**