

## Amy Harvey

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**From:** Jeanette Coffin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2021 4:44 PM  
**To:** Joel Hornstein  
**Cc:** Dwight Bassett; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Laura Selmer; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh  
**Subject:** RE: Duke Energy lines along East Franklin

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin  
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**From:** Joel Hornstein [mailto:jdhornstein@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2021 4:32 PM  
**To:** Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>  
**Subject:** Duke Energy lines along East Franklin

**External email:** Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to [reportspam@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:reportspam@townofchapelhill.org)

I am writing to ask that the town require Duke Energy to bury the electric lines that run along East Franklin Street. Alternatively, if the town lacks the authority to require Duke Energy to do so, I ask that the town pay Duke to do so.

One benefit of burying the lines is aesthetic: East Franklin is a popular approach to downtown, and electric poles aren't pretty.

But the primary reason to bury the poles is practical: So long as the poles are above ground, drivers will crash into them at a remarkable rate. Indeed, just since July of this year, such crashes have occurred at least four times. This has had several consequences:

- Injuries to drivers and passengers, and damage to the vehicles involved.
- Closures of East Franklin, a key artery into/out of town, that typically span hours as Duke Energy repairs its lines.
- (What impelled me to write): Loss of power to hundreds of homes.
  - On July 11 and 12 631 Chapel Hill homes lost power.
  - On September 3 1,967 Chapel Hill homes lost power
  - On September 22 650 Chapel Hill homes lost power
  - On December 21 659 Chapel Hill homes lost power

As I'm sure you appreciate, being without power for hours is at minimum a substantial inconvenience, particularly as many residents work from home. But loss of power can be more than that. We've had food spoil due to these avoidable outages; I have to imagine that some have lost critical medicines that require cold storage. And, should a power outage occur during extreme heat or cold, loss of power can be life threatening.

I trust you will agree that the status quo, which has seen four power outages in the last 5.3 months (a rate of about nine per year!), just isn't acceptable - particularly when it is so easily fixed.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Joel Hornstein  
3 The Glen  
Chapel Hill