

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



Published by Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio

Spring/Summer 2020

WELCOME MARY RHINEHART YOUR NEW FISCAL OFFICER



On November 5, 2019, the Franklin Township voters elected Mary Rhinehart as their new Township Fiscal Officer. Mary joined the Franklin Township family on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, for her 4-year term in office. Mary will play an intricate role, as the Fiscal Department is currently preparing for their annual audit review conducted by the Auditor of State's Office this summer. Mary has already begun setting goals to implement new strategic processes within the Fiscal Department to improve efficiency and integrity. Mary is working towards all of her necessary hours of education and professional development courses such as attending the Franklin County Township Association's Winter Conference as well as the Ohio Township Association's Conference. Franklin Township welcomes Mary. The Fiscal Department has an open door policy so feel free to contact them at 614-279-9411, extension 1003 or via email at MRhinehart@Franklin-Township.com.



Meet the Township's Misdemeanor Crime Investigator Courtland Fisher

Beginning in early 2020 the Township Board of Trustees approved to establish a new *misdemeanor* investigator position within the Franklin Township Police Department. The position was offered internally to those existing officers who were interested in investigative duties. After reviewing internal applicants, the Township's Police Chief and Lieutenant selected Officer Courtland Fisher as the most eligible candidate to take on the investigative duties. Officer Fisher will continue to perform the duties of an officer but will be taking on investigative duties as well. These new duties will include working with the community and local businesses to investigate **misdemeanor crimes** such as assault, trespassing, criminal damaging, and telecommunication harassment to name a few. Feel free to contact Officer

Fisher at CFisher@Franklin-Township.com to introduce yourself or to report a *misdemeanor* crime. We are excited to offer this investigative service to the Franklin Township community.



BEING A FIREFIGHTER IS A FAMILY TRADITION

Mullins Family

The Franklin Township Fire Department welcomes our newest firefighter Carvel Mullins IV (CJ). He is the third generation and fourth member of his family to work for our fire department. CJ follows his father "Scooter", his grandfather "Moon" and his grandfather's brother "Scrap" Mullins in service to our community, and adds literal family meaning to our "brotherhood".



Pictured: Scrap, CJ, Scooter & Moon Mullins.

§ Ohio Homestead Exemption = Reduction in Property Taxes for Eligible Residents §

Qualifying Franklin Township residents can take advantage of a state-wide program that helps to reduce their property tax burden. The Homestead Exemption is a way that the County Auditor's office can help senior citizens, disabled persons, and surviving spouses remain in their homes through a **reduction** in their property taxes. The Homestead Exemption helps reduce property taxes for homeowners over the age of 65 that have limited income by law, and may have up to \$25,000 of their property value exempted from being taxed. Disabled veterans and veteran seniors, may be eligible for up to \$50,000 of their property value exempted from being taxed. Applying is simple, and can be done online at Auditor Stinziano's office website www.franklincountyauditor.com/real-estate/homestead, or if getting online is not an option, you can call Auditor Stinziano's office at **614-525-4663**.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

From the Desk of the Police Chief



Criminals Beware, We Could be Anywhere!

Greetings residents of Franklin Township, your police department has been busy during the winter months utilizing our unmarked vehicles in neighborhoods to spot and investigate crimes. This program will ramp up more as the warmer weather approaches.



Speed Cameras: Franklin Township is currently using the speed camera technology to enforce violations in the **school zones only**, remember to watch for the yellow flashing lights. If you're not sure if the school zone is active you should drive at 20mph.

Road Closures impacting the north end of Township:

The Trabue Road bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad is closed for improvements and the construction of a shared use path. The closure is expected to last 150-days, weather permitting.

The bridge on Wilson Road between W. Broad Street and Sullivant Avenue will be closed for an undetermined amount of time for improvements beginning in March.

Professional Development/Training for Officers

Police One Academy

At the March 5, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board approved the Police Chief to enroll the Franklin Township Police Department in the Police One Academy, a certified, accredited online law enforcement training provider. In Ohio our officers are allowed to receive up to 20 hours of continuing education credits per written approval from OPOTA (Ohio Police Office Training Academy). This is a great opportunity for our officers to have the most relevant training available.

Shoot Point Blank

This new indoor shooting range in neighboring Grove City is partnering with the Franklin Township Police Department to allow our officers to utilize their shooting range for handgun and long gun continued education and practice.



Byron Smith, Police Chief



2020 Township Business Meetings
Spring/Summer 6:30 pm

April 2, 2020
April 30, 2020
May 7, 2020
May 21, 2020
June 4, 2020
June 18, 2020

July 2, 2020
July 30, 2020
August 13, 2020
August 27, 2020
September 10, 2020
September 24, 2020

From the Desk of the Road Superintendent



Stormwater Run-off Pollution Control

Stormwater runoff is rain that falls on streets, parking areas, sports fields, gravel lots, rooftops or other developed land and flows directly into nearby creeks, lakes and rivers. The drizzling or pounding rain picks up and mixes with what's on the ground:

- Oil, grease, metals and coolants from vehicles;
- Fertilizers, pesticides & other chemicals from garden/home;
- Bacteria from pet wastes and failing septic systems;
- Soil from construction sites and other bare ground;
- Soaps from car or equipment washing; and
- Accidental spills, leaky storage containers and whatever else ends up on the ground.

The polluted runoff then rushes into nearby gutters and storm drains and into waterways. In most areas, stormwater runoff enters these waters without being cleaned of pollutants. We all need to do our part to help reduce these pollutants from making it into our waterways.

BRUSH COLLECTION

Brush collection will continue throughout the week, please call 614-279-9411 ext. 1 to leave a message with the address of where the brush can be picked up. The brush will be picked up as we get time throughout the week, as we have multiple projects we are working on.

SPRING TIME MEANS ROAD WORK/REPAIR



The Road Department will be performing repair work along our roadways and berms over the next few months, please pay attention to the workers and give us as much room as you can so we can do our job safely.

A New Salt Barn is Built

The Township worked diligently to beat the winter weather by contracting to have a new salt barn built at the south end of the Township property on Frank Road. This new building is able to store more salt and be more efficient than the existing building. Stop by 2193 Frank Road to see the new barn.

Jim Stevens, Road Superintendent

From the Desk of the Fire Chief



Have You Checked Your Smoke Detector?

Happy Spring from your Fire Department: The Franklin Township Fire Department is excited to welcome Spring. We would like to remind everyone to change the battery in their smoke detectors. Smoke detectors save lives every day. The Franklin Township Fire Department offers the following services free to our residents:

Residential Services:

- Home Safety Inspections
- Smoke Detectors
- Smoke Detector Installation



We cannot overstate the importance of having working and well-maintained smoke detectors in your home.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Spring/Summer. As the warmer temperatures approach be sure to wear your bicycle helmets and watch out for motorcycles.

James Welch, Fire Chief



Message from Franklin County Public Health Commissioner Joe Mazzola regarding COVID-19:

We at Franklin County Public Health recognize that we are in unprecedented times and are grateful to our residents for doing their part to shorten this Public Health Emergency and save lives! Some reminders for all include:

1. Stay home- only go out as necessary for work, grocery and pharmacy needs
2. Wear a mask when out in public. Instructions to make you own masks can be found here:
<https://covid-19.myfcph.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>
3. Keep proper social distancing by staying at least six feet away from others
4. Maintain good hygiene by washing your hands and covering your cough
5. Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms (fever greater than 100.4 F, cough, or shortness of breath)
6. If you become symptomatic, call your healthcare provider for guidance
7. Keep yourself healthy! Go for walks as you are able and exercise at home. Eat healthy foods and try not to snack throughout the day while at home
8. Check in on friends and loved ones through the phone or internet. Mental health is hugely important in this time!
9. Franklin County Public Health needs volunteers to assist in the response efforts. If you would like to volunteer, please consider becoming a Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer. To Sign up, visit <https://myfcph.org/health-systems-planning/ep/mrc/>.

For those in need of assistance, we have a list of useful community resources on our website at <https://covid-19.myfcph.org/>. For those wanting to support their neighbors and fellow residents, organizations, such as The Columbus Foundation and United Way of Central Ohio have setup funds for those negatively impacted. Many organizations such as LifeCare Alliance Meals on Wheels are in need of volunteers. For those in a position to assist, please do so knowing it will make a difference. Finally, you can visit the State of Ohio's website for additional information and updates at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

From the Desk of the Fiscal Officer

Many Thanks

Thank you for your vote of confidence & allowing me this opportunity to accept the challenge & the honor to serve my fellow Franklin township residents & businesses.

I was elected to oversee & safeguard the township funds & work with the trustees to see monies are spent wisely & in the best interest of the residents, & I am the keeper of the township records.

I would like to clarify my role and interaction with the Trustees as summarized by the OhioTownships.org: "As elected officials, Trustees and Fiscal Officers are part-time employees. What Makes a Good Township Official? In practice, the Board of Trustees and the fiscal officer must work together with the collective goal to ensure all decisions and actions comply with the laws and regulations. It is important for township elected officials to have a clear understanding of the roles of each officer and how they fit into the governance structure of the township. In order to work together efficiently, each elected official must respect and listen to each other's opinions. They do not always need to agree, but meetings should be conducted in a professional manner and in a spirit of cooperation." [Source: Ohio Townships.org. See also "What Makes a Good Fiscal Officer" and "What Makes a Good Trustee".]

My initial goal is to ensure the Fiscal Office completes the current 2017, 2018, & 2019 Ohio Auditor of State audits so that we can ensure regulatory compliance and accurate accounting of our funds. I must feel confident that I am making sound decisions regarding Departments' and ultimately Trustees' requests for funds. Second is to implement "OhioCheckbook.com" for public access to our budget to see how our tax dollars are being utilized to provide necessary services. Please feel free to call my Office 614-279-9411 x1003 or e-mail me at MRhinehart@Franklin-Township.com.

Mary Rhinehart, Fiscal Officer

Franklin Township Directory

Township Departments

Fire Department

Fire Department Emergency.....911

Fire Chief James Welch

Asst. Fire Chief Charles (Chas) Adams

Fire Prevention: Captain Todd Broecker

Station 192.....614-279-0089

4100 Sullivant Ave., Columbus, 43228

Equipment: Engine 192, Medic 192,

Foam Truck 199,

Station 193.....614-279-1441

2193 Frank Rd, Columbus, 43223

Equipment: Engine 193, Medic 193

Road Department – 614-279-9411

Superintendent, Jim Stevens

2193 Frank Road, Columbus, 43223

Police Department

Police Department Emergency911

Non-emergency Dispatch.....614-525-3333

Chief Byron Smith - 614-279-9411

2193 Frank Road, Columbus, 43223



Elected Officials

Aryeh Alex, Trustee: 614-594-9789
Serving term 01/01/18 – 12/31/21

John Fleshman, Trustee 614-272-8595
Serving Term 01/01/18 – 12/31/21

Ralph Horn, Trustee: 614-279-6833
Serving term 01/01/20 – 12/31/23

Mary Rhinehart, Fiscal Officer:614-279-9411
Serving term 04/1/20 – 03/31/24

Office Staff – 614-279-9411

Mark Potts, Administrator

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer