



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



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Fall/Winter 2020



Happy Retirement to Ron Beatty

After 10 years of dedicated service to the residents of Franklin Township, Ron Beatty has decided to open the next chapter in his life and retire. Ron has been an essential part of the Franklin Township Road Department and his service will be dearly missed. We hope he can spend a lot of time fishing and golfing.

MANY THANKS

The Franklin Township Fire Department wishes to thank the residents of Franklin Township for the recent passage of the fire levy on the November ballot. We appreciate your continued support.



Franklin Township and SWACO Partner to Reduce Waste and Improve Recycling



Franklin Township has been awarded a Community Waste Reduction Grant through SWACO's competitive grant program for an in-house recycling program. With SWACO's support, Franklin Township is working to increase the recycling rate at its Township facilities.

“The establishment of a comprehensive in-house recycling program, to be used by Township employees, is a goal and objective of the Franklin Township Trustees,” said Mark Potts, Franklin Township Administrator. “Establishing such a program at Township facilities will show that recycling can be easy, effective and can make an impact on our community and environment.”

In 2020, SWACO awarded \$194,000 in competitive grant funding to fifteen community projects.

“SWACO's grants support unique and innovative projects throughout Franklin County as a way to improve the local waste stream by increasing diversion,” said Hanna Greer-Brown, SWACO's communication manager. “We applaud the work of Franklin Township to prioritize sustainability and join our efforts to reach a 75% diversion goal by 2032.”

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

From the Desk of the Police Chief



This time of year, traditionally, we give thanks for our blessings and think how we can serve others. At FTPD we are thankful for the continued support from our residents. We see your *Back the Blue* and *We Support Our Police* signs in your front yards. Every officer here has had residents approach them to thank them for their service and offer their support. This means a great deal to our officers and they truly appreciate it. Thank you to all on behalf of FTPD.

FTPD continues to try to serve the residents through several charitable endeavors. To address two of the Township's biggest problems, homelessness and drug abuse, Chief Byron Smith and Lt Dave Ratliff have engaged in a strong partnership with the Franklin County Health Department, the Franklin County Coroner's Office, ADAMH of Franklin County, Southeast Mental Health, and Jordan's Crossing Outreach. This year they have passed out thousands of sack lunches along with thousands of doses of naran while directing people into services to address homelessness, mental health, food insecurity, and drug addiction.

FTPD has also been fortunate to partner with the Starfish Assignment, a non-profit charitable organization that assists law enforcement. The mission of Starfish is to partner with police, who identify needs in the community, and Starfish goes to work to fulfill those needs. One recent example is Starfish provided Thanksgiving meals to FTPD for the officers to distribute to families in the township that the officers knew could use a helping hand.

As 2020 winds down, your police department looks forward to doing more in 2021 and earn your continued support.

From the Desk of the Road Superintendent



SALT BARN

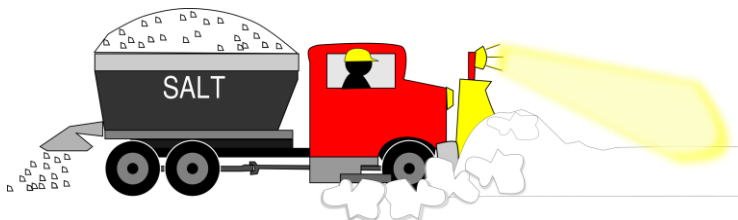
The salt barn that was constructed late last year has been a tremendous asset to Franklin Township. It has allowed the Franklin Township Road Department to store more needed salt and do so in a more efficient manner as to better serve the residents of the Township.

BRUSH AND CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Brush collection will continue to be picked up throughout the week. Also, after the Christmas holiday we will also be picking up used live Christmas trees. Please note, there cannot be any ornaments, lights or tinsel of any kind on the Christmas trees. Please call 614-279-9411 (ext1) and leave a message with the address where the brush and/or Christmas tree can be picked up.

SNOW REMOVAL

Please help the Road Department to properly and safely clear the snow from the roadway by parking all vehicles off of the roadway prior to an upcoming snow event. We ask that everyone pay close attention to weather forecasts and changing weather conditions. If you live in a curbed area on the side of the street where there are signs posted "No Parking if 2" or more of Snow" we ask that you abide by these signs. Your cooperation will avoid a Citation and Towing. Vehicles are towed at the Owners Expense.





Don't let Christmas ever heat up too much – with fire that is. Did you know that Christmas trees alone result in 13 million dollars, annually, in property damage? More importantly, these fires present real risk towards family and friends. When showcasing a live tree in your home, the combination of tree dryness, electrical malfunction with lights and poorly located heating sources can make for a deadly combination.

If your holiday is just not complete without a live tree, follow these safety precautions to keep threats at bay:

- Fresh trees are less likely to catch fire, so look for a tree with vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't break easily from its branches. The tree shouldn't be shedding its needles readily.
- Always place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and keep the tree base filled with water to avoid a dry out.
- Make sure all your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights have been tested in a lab by the UL or ETL/ITSNA for safety, and throw out any damaged lights.
- Any lights you use outdoors must be labeled suitable for exterior placement, and be sure to plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter protected receptacle.
- Keep all your holiday candles away from your Christmas tree, surrounding furniture and décor.
- Bedtime means lights off! Don't forget to turn your Christmas tree lights off each night.

When your tree begins to drop its needles, it's time to say goodbye to your evergreen foliage until next year. So, this year, follow our guidelines to avoid being another statistic in the National Fire Protection Association or United States Fire Administration report during the upcoming holiday season.

Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday!
Chief James Welch

Source: [actaInChristmas Tree Facts And Figures](#)

Fiscal Office 1st 6 Months

COVID-19 has brought the township some very tough times but also brought out the best in people. There are many stories of neighbors taking care of neighbors when they are not able to leave their homes. We have had staff out in all departments from COVID or suspected contamination. The saving grace is that we have received \$1,200,000 in Provider Relief Grant Funds that helped us recoup some costs and lessen the risk of future lost work, expenses, and health costs so that we can continue Township services. Many of us have had to adapt by working and meeting remotely—we are still using teleconferenced Township meetings.

We have gone full force into reconciling the past 3 years of our bank statements and cleaning up 7 years of taxes and pensions. We have demonstrated herculean efforts in remedying the delinquencies. Because of this approach, we have been able to get tens of thousands of dollars in fines removed. It was said that it would take 2 years to clean it up, but I hope to be finished by April.

The Auditor of State has decided to include 2020 to our 2017-2019 audit. We are reviewing prior and current and repeat audit findings, and developing and implementing policies and procedures to correct these. Examples include an employee handbook, public records guidelines--including a retention schedule (disposing of obsolete records), public records requests, a pre-approval purchase order system and supporting documentation for payment, refining and reporting realistic revenue projections and appropriations, proper authorizations, and continuous input and feedback to make operations run smoothly.

Ironically the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic resulted in government funds that provided financial relief to a critical budget shortage (due to inaccurate accounting and over spending). Let's pray that vaccines and treatments enable us all to get back to living normal lives and the township can provide you even better services with your tax dollars in the future. Please feel free to call my office 614-279-9411 x 2304 and Robyn at 2303 (note this has changed) or e-mail MRhinehart@Franklin-Township.com.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! Be safe, healthy, happy, and live your best life!

Franklin Township Directory

Township Departments

Fire Department

Fire Department Emergency.....911

Fire Chief James Welch

Fire Prevention: Captain Todd Broecker

Station 192.....614-278-4660

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 – 12/31/22

John Fleshman, Trustee 614-272-8595
Serving Term 01/01/18 – 12/31/22

Ralph Horn, Trustee: 614-279-6833
Serving term 01/01/20 – 12/31/24

Mary Rhinehart, Fiscal Officer:614-279-9411
Serving term 04/1/20 – 03/31/25

Office Staff – 614-279-9411

Mark Potts, Administrator

Robyn Watkins, Asst. Fiscal Officer