

FRENCHTOWN T O D A Y

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

SPRING / SUMMER 2019

VOLUME 22 — ISSUE 1

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POINTS OF CONTACT

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TWP.
(734) 242-3282

Assessing.....	Dept. 2
Clerk.....	Dept. 3
Building.....	Dept. 4
Supervisor.....	Dept. 5
Treasurer.....	Dept. 6
Water (Billing).....	Dept. 7

Water Plant / Emergency
(734) 289-1015

Fire (Non-Emergency)
(734) 241-8853

FIRE (Emergency) 911

Recreation (734) 243-1732

Resort District Authority
(734) 289-2537

Senior Citizens Center
(734) 243-6210

OR VISIT US AT:

2744 Vivian Road
Monroe, Michigan 48162
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

frenchtowntownship.org

from the supervisor's desk

by James McDevitt, Supervisor



reflection

Dear Frenchtown Charter Township Readers,
As we emerge from this 2019 polar vortex winter, with all the interruptions in school, business, not to mention our trash pickup schedules, all of us are looking forward to milder temperatures so we can begin to experience some of the many great perks of living in Frenchtown

Charter Township, and the change of seasons! All the staff at our Township offices sincerely hope everyone is enjoying a productive and healthy 2019.

trash service

Republic Services is the company Frenchtown Charter Township has contracted. The trash and recycling carts belong to Republic Services and are meant to stay with the property at which they were distributed and are not to be removed from the premises. In order to maintain the overall cost of this service, it is necessary to control the number of trash carts issued to each household.

- ▼ If you have an extra trash or recycle cart, please call my office at 734-242-3282, and we will come out and pick it up.
- ▼ Remember to place the trash carts 3 feet off the road and not on the paved shoulder. Where there is a white pavement marking, carts need to be placed 3 feet in from the end of the driveway. Leave at least 4 feet between carts.
- ▼ To avoid having paper and other debris being blown by the wind or coming from the recycle trucks, please remember to bag your loose recyclable items in white or clear plastic bags before placing them in the blue recycle carts.
- ▼ Please return the carts back to your house. This will help avoid possible theft and damage to the carts.
- ▼ Do not mix compost with your trash or recycling. If a driver notices compost in either cart, it will be tagged and not collected.
- ▼ For the list of Qualified Recycled Products, go to our website, click on "Clerk," and navigate to the left-hand column in the "Download" list.

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Superintendent's Report continued...

bulk items

If you have large items that do not fit in your container, Republic Services needs at least 24 hours' notice to schedule a bulk pick up. Republic Services does not pick up construction material (dry wall, flooring, trim, etc.). Call to see if certain items qualify as "bulk pickup items."

You may contact my office, 734-242-3282, Dept. 5, or Republic Services, 800-878-4626, to arrange for collection of these extra bags and bulk items.

yard waste collection dates

Monday, April 1, 2019 –
Friday, November 29, 2019

- ▼ Place your yard waste curbside apart from your household trash and recycle carts the night before your scheduled service day.
- ▼ Yard Waste is collected each week on your service day.
- ▼ Use paper yard waste bags or 32-gallon containers marked "Yard Waste."

Holiday Schedule for trash and recycling pickup will run one day late.

road projects

- ▼ LaSalle Road from M-125 to M24
- ▼ LaSalle Road from M24 to Reinhardt
- ▼ Monroe County Road Commission will be doing many maintenance projects throughout the Township.

special road information

- ▼ A private road is defined as a road that has not been certified and is not maintained by the County or the State.
- ▼ All signage, pavement marking and maintenance on private roads are the responsibility of the adjacent Property Owners or a Property Owners Association.
- ▼ The Township cannot lawfully expend public sums on improvements to private roads.

street light outages

If you have a street light in your area that needs attention,

please contact my office to make a report. Information such as the exact location of the pole, pole number and existing problem, along with other facts such as whether or not the pole is located near a school or park, are all necessary facts when my office is reporting to DTE Energy.

\$\$ for your junk vehicles \$\$

Did you know your automobile may be worth money to you? Scrap yards will pay you for your old or unusable vehicle. There are organizations that accept vehicle donations. Please explore one of these choices if you have a car, truck, and van or boat that you no longer use. Inoperative vehicles left in yards and driveways are in violation of Frenchtown's Blight Ordinance. All vehicles must be licensed, operable and registered.

closing

Your Frenchtown Charter Township Staff try very hard to follow up on any issues or complaints that may arise and have been reported to us. However, sometimes it takes time and investigating. Please bear with us for any delays that might occur. We certainly have your best interests in mind and will work very hard to resolve issues as quickly as possible.

On behalf of my staff in the Supervisor's Department and all of us at Frenchtown Charter Township, I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Spring and Summer.

FRENCHTOWN TODAY

PUBLISHED BY
Frenchtown
Charter Township

Supervisor

James McDevitt

Clerk

Mark J. Baker

Treasurer

Julie Ellison

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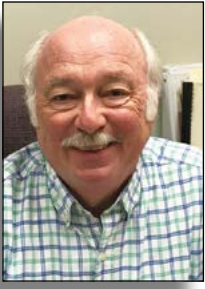
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metzgers.com



notes from the resort district authority

by Larry Smith, Director



proposed resort district authority millage renewal

The Frenchtown Charter Township Resort District Authority (RDA) is seeking a 10 year renewal of a 3 mill levy on the May 7, 2019 election ballot. The current levy is due to expire December 31, 2020. The issue is being brought to the voters early in order to ensure that funding will be available for future services and projects. The renewal will allow the RDA to continue to exist with uninterrupted operations and begin the planning and design for future projects in the seawall rehabilitation and road pavement asset management programs.

The 3 mill levy generates approximately \$1.8 million revenue per year and all monies collected are spent in the Resort District only. Some of the improvements funded by the RDA millage include:

Snow Removal: Associations hire their own contractor to clear roads in their subdivisions. At the end of the snow season, bills are submitted to the RDA for reimbursement according to a prescribed formula.

Road Maintenance: All road maintenance is provided by the RDA. Additionally, the RDA Board has undertaken a road pavement asset management plan.

Street Lighting: The RDA pays the street lighting assessment within the RDA District each year.

Drain Maintenance: Drain maintenance is covered under a Chapter 20 Drainage District. All drain maintenance is provided by the Monroe County Drain Commissioner and all charges are paid by the RDA.

Sheriff Patrol: The RDA contracts with the Monroe County Sheriff to provide two dedicated deputies within the RDA District.

Flood Protection Programs: The clay berms that protect the backwaters within the RDA District have been reconstructed and are maintained by the RDA. The RDA is also constructing new sea walls along Lake Erie on a build as revenue allows basis.

If the RDA millage fails, the cost of those items funded by the RDA will become the responsibility of each Association and/or the individual homeowners.

Exercise your right to vote on May 7th!

frenchtown center for active adults

by Paul Iacoangeli, Executive Director

We have some great events coming up this spring and summer. If you don't receive our newsletter, you can like us on Facebook or go to our website www.frenchtownsenior.com for a list of activities and events. You may want to mark your calendar for May 18th for our chicken dinner featuring MariJayne Stone (aka Kathleen Bressler) will be in the house performing such favorites as Mama Cass, Grace Slick, and Janis Joplin. Seating is limited so call the Center early for your tickets.

Doing some spring cleaning? Keep us in mind. We are planning on a Rummage Sale the first week of June. We will be accepting clean, used, household items and clothing. This year we will be accepting working small kitchen

appliances, laptops, tablets, anything small beginning in May. Please, no large TV's or Appliances – we will have to turn them away.

How about some summer fun! Our 22nd Annual Golf Outing is June 29, 2019, at the Lilac Golf Course. Cost is \$75.00 per person includes: coffee and donuts during sign in, shotgun start at 9 a.m., 18 holes of Golf, lunch at the turn, two beverage tickets and a steak dinner.

Yearly dues are \$20.00 or about 39 cents a week, coffee is free, lunch is \$3.00 for those over 60. Thank you for the time you spent reading, and I hope you take a few extra moments and visit the Center.



clerk's office update

by Mark J. Baker, C.M.M.C. / C.M.C, Clerk

Hope this finds you warm and well and enjoying a little sunshine! The Recreation Department guys are out getting the parks and ball fields ready for spring. The 2019 rentals of the Kiwanis Park Hall on Nadeau Road and the adjacent Ball Fields along with the Pavilions at our park on Blue Bush Road next to the Library and Fire Station, and the ones in the park behind the Township Hall here on Vivian Road are well underway. You can call the Clerk's Office at (734) 242-5800 for available dates and fees. (Please remember...you can now reserve a date to use the Kiwanis Park Hall for your event any day, not just on a Saturday or a Sunday.) And wait, there's more! The Kiwanis Park Hall is now Air Conditioned!!!

Some of us here in Frenchtown will have ballot issues to vote on May 7th. The two issues are a renewal of the Resort District Millage and a Renewal of a Millage for Jefferson Schools. At this writing, we do not know whether or not there will be elections held in August or November here in Frenchtown Township.

The new voting equipment Michigan has implemented runs a bit slower than the old equipment, be sure to allow yourself plenty of time at the polls. Sometime this year the State will be directing us to use electronic poll books, so please remember to bring your driver's license or State issued I.D. card if you have them. This will help keep the process moving a little quicker.

Election Laws have changed since last November and your Clerk's Office stands ready to help you with registering to vote, which you can do even on Election Day AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE. Requests for Absent Voter Ballots no longer have to have a reason, and we can help with other Election questions.

We can always stand to add to our pool of Election Precinct Workers. Workers at an Election Precinct Site are paid for their time, the township also pays for your required class time prior to working the Elections. Election Inspectors MUST be able to perform some basic computer functions. Here's wishing you a pleasant Spring and Summer!



treasurer's office update

by Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Hello from the Treasurer's Office! Things are going extremely well in the Treasurer's Office, staying busy! I continue to further my education by attending conferences, classes and networking with fellow Treasurers. I am proud to report I will be graduating in May from a 3 year Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association sponsored course and will be receiving my Michigan Certified Professional Treasurer Certification.

The acceptance of credit card payments for water and tax bills has been well received. There are fees attached to using this service. Please note the cardholder must be present with their ID for all credit/debit card transactions. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office.

2018 delinquent property tax

Real property taxes were turned over delinquent to the County on March 1st, 2019, for collection by the Monroe County Treasurer, 51 S. Macomb Street, Monroe, MI. If you are paying a delinquent personal property tax it will remain payable at Frenchtown Treasurer's office. Please review the back of your bill for additional information regarding delinquencies.

important tax dates

Summer 2019 Tax Bills (and Tax Copies for escrow parcels) are scheduled to be mailed on June 28th, 2019, and 2019 Winter Tax Bills on November 29th, 2019.

SUMMER TAX BILLS ARE DUE BY 4:30 PM ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16th, 2019. Interest will begin to accrue at 1% a month, or any fraction of a month beginning at the close of business on September 16th for any unpaid balance. The interest is NOT the Township's and must be collected for disbursement. Partial payments are always accepted during the collection cycle. Failure to receive a tax bill does not waive penalties or interest. Please review your bills and do not hesitate to call (734) 242-5902, Dept. #6 with any questions.

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Treasurer's Report continued...

water information

We have decided, after much discussion, to only accept cash, money order or credit card payments for water shut-off notices. Checks will no longer be accepted as a method of payment for a water shutoff notice. Please call our office when you receive your BLUE water bill if payment arrangements are needed. We are happy to help, but can only do so before water is shut off for nonpayment. Look for full-page water bills in June.

frenchtown recreation department

by Larry Chinavare, Director

For relevant, timely information on township-sponsored activities for youth and adults, please check the township website. Have a great 2019! I am located in the Recreation Building/Senior Citizens Building; my phone number is 734-243-1732. Email lchinavare@frenchtownsenior.com. Your comments and concerns are always encouraged.

library news

by Jane M. Steed, Community Librarian for the Frenchtown Area Libraries

Spring is in the air. This new season signals changes and new beginnings. Frenchtown Area Libraries are also experiencing many changes, new friendly faces and upcoming events.

Be on the lookout for KORRI, Monroe County Library System's new mobile library that will begin traveling our community roads in April. Read all about this "special" outreach vehicle on our website: <https://monroe.lib.mi.us/bookmobile>. This new bookmobile will be staffed by Anne and Mary, both former staff members at our Frenchtown-Dixie Library. Replacing Anne, in the job of youth services technician will be Shannon, who has also been a clerk at Frenchtown and Vivian Libraries.

Stop in at our Vivian Library and say "Hi!" to Diane. She replaces Patt who recently retired after many years with our library system. Diane has promised to keep all of Patt's programs going...including her "Thursday Afternoon Specials," an afternoon craft time every other month, our "Afternoon Read" book club, special Mother's Day and Father's Day craft programs for children and a variety of fun programs for children and their families. Diane will be adding a few new events including "Puzzle in a Day" on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Watch for Summer Reading events to start the week of June 16th.

The Blue Bush Library and the Frenchtown-Dixie Library are planning several new programs and events in the next few months. For more information on upcoming events, go to the Library's website <https://monroe.lib.mi.us>. The Blue Bush Mystery book club continues to take place on the 1st Wednesday of the month and A Classic Book

Club meets on the last Wednesday of every other month. Join a book club for fun, friends and good books. Story times run through April and our Summer Reading Program "A Universe of Stories" beginning in June.

Our Frenchtown-Dixie Library, on Nadeau Road, continues to host blood drives for the American Red Cross. The next one is scheduled for June 7th from 9:30 till 2:30. These blood drives are sponsored by the Friends of the Frenchtown Libraries. Our book clubs continue through the summer as do our toddler and preschool story times. Check for times and dates: <https://monroe.lib.mi.us>. "Hankie Doodle" comes to town on May 23rd for some crafty fun. Be sure to register for events online to reserve your space for fun. Summer Reading events will take place on Monday evenings this summer so be ready for some out-of-this world adventures with "A Universe of Stories."

Be sure to check out your local library and see what's new, see what kind of programs are coming, or just to say **Hello**. Frenchtown Township has three lovely libraries to enjoy and there are 13 more libraries in Monroe County to check out. We are here for you and want to know what we can do for you, and don't forget to tell us what you've been reading lately.

Blue Bush 734.242.4085

Frenchtown-Dixie 734.289.1035

Vivian 734.241.1430



from the building department

by Joe Lehmann,
Building Official

The Building Department welcomes new staff member Natalie Askar to Frenchtown Township! Mrs. Askar has taken over duties as the Planning Commission Clerk and will be assisting with all the new commercial development. She is not full time in our department (you might see her assisting in the Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk departments also) but we are grateful to have her as part of the team.

Just a reminder we are now enforcing the following codes: 2015 Michigan Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, Residential, and Rehabilitation Codes, and the 2017 National Electrical Code. Code books are available at: shop.iccsafe.org/michigan-discounts?ref=MI

To celebrate Building Safety Month, the Building Department offers Free Permit Week occurring May 6th - 10th, 2019. Township residents can apply for permits during this week to fix up their properties with no fees attached.

Permits included in this yearly event are the installation of replacement windows, doors, roofing, siding and flat cement work. Remember, for your convenience, permit applications and the Township Zoning Ordinance are available on our website.

We would also like to draw your attention to Article 24.05.1(a) Parking Requirements. The Township Zoning Ordinance states that parking is not permitted on lawns (both private property and right-of-way). We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation. If your parking needs have changed and you plan to do any driveway work please contact the Building Department prior to starting any work. You may also need to contact the Resort Authority or the Road Commission depending on your location. We appreciate the efforts to keep our Township clean.

Remember the Building Department is here to help you with your projects and to ensure public safety, health and welfare, insofar as they are affected by building construction, repair and maintenance.

If you have any questions concerning Zoning, Blight, Building, Property Maintenance or Occupancy, please feel free to contact the Frenchtown Charter Township Building Department at 734-242-5900 and we will make every effort to help you with your concerns.



frenchtown fire department

by Wendy Stevens, Fire Chief



Fresh new look just in time for spring. Your Fire Department has also been freshening up as well. Updates and improvements have been made at the fire stations. Fire Station 1 was built in 1989 with Station 2 being built the following year. No improvements had been made to the living areas, and many areas are in desperate need of repairs. In the winter of 2018/2019 updates were performed to the kitchens in both stations. Broken cabinetry, cracked laminate counter tops and broken appliances were replaced and updated. Firefighters live in these fire stations 24/7 to be available to serve your needs skillfully and efficiently. Giving them a clean, fresh kitchen to prepare meals

in, was a much-needed expense. As with most families, the kitchen table is where problems are solved, relationships are strengthened, and nourishment is consumed; having this area improved for the on-duty firefighters was a necessity. We could not have completed these kitchens without your continued support of our capital improvement millage.

On the topic of much needed im-



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Fire Chief's Report continued...

provements, your fire department has contracted with a new reporting software for all of our Fire, EMS, Inspection and Investigation needs. This all-encompassing software has streamlined our reporting. We are awaiting the delivery of iPads and our efficiency will greatly improve. The iPads will allow for GPS/GIS mapping for responding to incidents; outdated map books have not kept up with our fast-changing Township. Apps for HAZMAT, weather, poison control, DTE and many more will allow for immediate information on high hazard responses. Reports will be completed on scene, not written on paper and transferred onto the desktop computers upon return to the stations. This will avoid mistakes and loss of data.



Frenchtown Fire Department continues our commitment to training. Our new medical instructors are developing courses and instructing our firefighters to maintain our paramedic and basic EMT licenses. Having in house, state certified instructors saves money and time: no more out-of-pocket costs to send our firefighters elsewhere for continuing education. The firefighters train on duty, not having to give up time with their families to maintain their fire department required medical licenses. On the fire side of training we also have state certified instructors.

Our entire department participated in Fire Ground Safety and Survival with a simulator borrowed from another fire department and taught by our own fire instructors. The Fire Department brought in instructors to teach frontline safety to our members. Both of these trainings teach firefighters how to protect and save themselves to enable them to better serve you. Frontline Safety reminded firefighters of the importance of properly wearing their gear, regularly seeing a healthcare provider, eating well and exercising as a regular part of their work and home life. Fireground Safety and Survival taught Frenchtown firefighters how to escape dangerous fireground scenarios such as evacuating a second story window in the event of entrapment or

rapidly changing fire growth, and flashover. This training also covered entrapment, tool use and an intense series of events to push firefighters to use their minds as well as their bodies to progress through the obstacles.

We strive to be an active part of our community. Frenchtown Fire Department attends sporting events to provide immediate onsite medical attention if needed. We visit schools to promote fire safety and education to our students, offer station tours and yearly open houses to give you an opportunity to meet us and get an up-close look at the equipment you provide to us. Our Frenchtown Firefighters Association promotes healthy children by partnering with a food

pantry to provide meals to children once the school year ends, giving coats and cold weather gear to children in need. The FFA purchases school supplies to donate to students and teachers to promote a positive beginning of the school year. We also assist families in need following a house fire. We are here to support you and thank you for continually supporting us.



Open burning dates are April 15 - April 30. No permit is necessary. Just remember to be courteous of your neighbors, stay with the fire until it is completely extinguished, and do not burn during windy conditions. Our Outdoor Burning Ordinance can be found under the Fire Department's information on the website.

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2744 VIVIAN ROAD
MONROE, MICHIGAN 48162

www.frenchtowntownship.org

SPRING / SUMMER 2019, VOL. 22, ISSUE 1

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2019 township meetings schedule



All meetings will be held at the Frenchtown Charter Township Hall, 2744 Vivian Road, Monroe, Michigan; except the Recreation Commission which will meet at the Frenchtown Recreation Center at 2786 Vivian Road, Monroe, Michigan.

township board

- 2nd Tuesday3:00 p.m.
- 3rd Tuesday 10:00 a.m.
- 4th Tuesday7:00 p.m.

planning commission

- 1st Thursday (as needed)7:00 p.m.
- 3rd Thursday7:00 p.m.

zoning board of appeals

- 2nd Wednesday (as needed).....7:00 p.m.

recreation commission

- 1st Tuesday (as needed).....7:00 p.m.

resort district authority

- 2nd Wednesday.....3:00 p.m.