



Frenchtown TODAY

Volume 20 - Issue 2 • FALL / WINTER 2017

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Points of Contact

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER
TOWNSHIP - (734) 242-3282

Assessing	Department 2
Clerk	Department 3
Building	Department 4
Supervisor	Department 5
Treasurer	Department 6
Water (Billing)	Department 7
Water Plant	289-1015
Water Emergency	289-1015
Fire (Non-Emergency)	241-8853
Fire (Emergency)	911
Recreation	243-1732
Resort District Authority	289-2537
Senior Citizens Center	243-6210

Or Visit Us At:

2744 Vivian Road
Monroe, Michigan 48162
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Or on the Web At:

www.frenchtowntownship.org



From the Supervisor's Desk

By James McDevitt, Supervisor

REFLECTION

What a beautiful beginning to summer!! Before you know it, fall and winter will be upon us, along with the busy schedules, children back to school and the many holidays. Please be aware of our children as they are out and about playing and heading back to school. Their safety depends on us.

TRASH SERVICE

The Township has a shortage of brown bins. If you have an extra trash bin, please call my office at 242-3282, and we will come out and pick it up.

There are occasional questions regarding multiple trash bins for each household. In view of overall costs for this service, it is necessary to continue to control the number of trash bins issued to each household. The trash and recycling bins are furnished and are the property of Republic Services. However, ultimately costs for extra bins are incorporated in the Township's service fees.

Please remember to place the trash bins three (3) feet off the road and not on the paved shoulder. Where there is a white pavement marking, bins need to be placed three (3) feet in from the end of the driveway.

- Trash containers are meant to stay with the property at which they are distributed and not to be removed from the premises.
- To avoid having paper and other debris coming from the trash trucks, please remember to bag your loose trash item in plastic trash bags before placing them in the trash bins.
- Once your trash bins have been emptied, please return the bins to your house. This will help avoid possible theft and damage to the bins.
- Please do not mix compost with your trash or recycling. If a driver notices compost in either bin, it will be tagged and not collected. Always remember to leave at least 4 feet between bins for ease in servicing.

Just a reminder - When you have large items that do not fit in your bin, you must call Republic Waste or the Township to request a special bulk item pick-up. Republic requires a 24 hour notice prior to your normally scheduled trash day.

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From the Supervisor's Desk *(continued from page 1)*

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

*****YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 7, 2017*****

Please remember to place your yard waste curbside apart from your household trash by 7 AM on the day of your normal trash pick-up.

ROAD PROJECTS

There are no major road projects to report, but continued maintenance will take place on local and primary roads.

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, which are a tax deduction. Please explore one of these choices if you have a car, truck, and van or boat that you no longer use.

Please remember, inoperative vehicles left in yards and driveways are in violation of Frenchtown's Blight Ordinance. All vehicles must be licensed, operable and registered.

CLOSING

We 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 Michigan Fall and Winter.

Clerk's Office Update

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

Hi Friends!

This edition of the Township Newsletter should be arriving during the last of "The Dog Days of Summer".....I've never understood that phrase. I'm thinking that dogs don't care much for heat and humidity any more that we do. Those warmer days

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Frenchtown TODAY

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Frenchtown Charter Township

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Alan VanWashenova, Trustee

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Hedwig Kaufman

Jack Lindquist

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Clerk's Office Update *(continued from page 2)*

earlier this summer without the humidity were really enjoyable. There are still lots of great days to enjoy Frenchtown's Parks before it gets cold. Park 3 is located at the corner of Stewart Road and Blue Bush Road, next to the Library and Fire Station. There is also a nice park behind the Township Hall (with a great sledding hill) here on Vivian Road. Kiwanis Park and Hall on Nadeau Road at Fix Road is on the banks of Stoney Creek. You can rent the Kiwanis Park Hall for \$300, \$100 of that is refundable, if the hall is left in clean and orderly condition. You can also reserve one of the Pavilions at the other two parks for just \$25. Stop by or call us here at the Clerk's Office for those reservations (242-5800). Reservations by township residents for Kiwanis Park Hall and Pavilions in 2018 begin on the first Monday morning of February 2018 (you must show I.D.). Two weeks from that day the rentals open up to the Public at Large. Rentals are first come first served. The line forms early at the Township Hall that Monday morning.

2018 will be a busy Election Year as we will be voting for Governor, U.S. Congress and Senate. Also State Reps. as well as State Senate and no doubt a bunch of other issues. We will be using the new State Mandated Voting Equipment beginning next year. For the Voter, the system won't seem much different to use. What will be different is, if you Vote in Precinct #4 or #9 you will now be voting at the Frenchtown Recreation Building (Senior Center) 2786 Vivian Road due to issues with accessibility for persons who are disabled being able to enter the previous site in a way that is acceptable under the law. The Clerk's Office can provide Voter Registration, Absent Voter Ballots for those who can't be at their Precinct on Election Day and help with other Voting information. Remember...you must be registered to vote no later than 30 days prior to any Election in Michigan to be able to Vote in that Election.

Here's wishing you a great Fall, a Joyous Holiday Season, and a pleasant winter (don't forget the sledding hill here behind the Township Hall)!



Treasurer's Office Update

By Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Things are going great in the Treasury Department! As a new Treasurer I am certainly learning a lot, attending many classes and creating an amazing network! Hope everyone has enjoyed this mild summer so far.....it's been a beauty!

The acceptance of credit card payments for water and tax bills has been well received. There are fees attached to using this service. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call the office.

WATER INFORMATION

We have decided, after much discussion, to accept cash, money order or credit card payments for water shutoff 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.

FALL AND WINTER WATER/SEWER UTILITY BILLS ARE DUE IN OCTOBER AND JANUARY.

IMPORTANT TAX DATES

SUMMER TAX BILLS ARE DUE BY 4:30 PM ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14th, 2017. Interest will begin to accrue at 1% a month, or any fraction of a month beginning at the close of business on September 14th 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.

WINTER TAX BILLS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAILING ON NOVEMBER 30th, 2017.

Winter tax payments will be collected without interest or penalty beginning Friday, December 1st through 4:30 pm Wednesday, February 14th, 2018.

FEBRUARY 14th, 2018 IS THE DUE DATE FOR BOTH 2017 SUMMER DEFERRED AND WINTER TAXES.

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Treasurer's Office Update *(continued from page 3)*

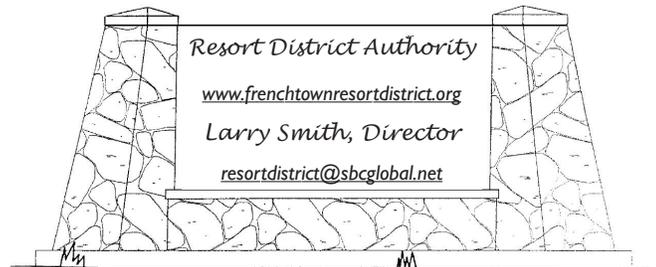
For this due date, a post office date will be accepted as timely if received within 7 business days of the postmark. At the close of business on February 14th a 3% penalty is added to unpaid 2017 taxes. The only exceptions are lawfully deferred winter taxes. Please refer to the back of your tax bill for additional information regarding deferments.

FEBRUARY 28th, 2018 is the last day to pay taxes locally. Real property taxes are turned over delinquent to the county on March 1st, 2018 for the collection by the Monroe County Treasurer.



NOTES FROM THE RESORT DISTRICT AUTHORITY

By Larry Smith, Director



I have noticed a lot of improvement being made by residents in the district. Several new homes have been built and numerous home improvement projects undertaken. Investing time and money in where we live is a sign of a healthy community, generating pride in our homes, showing respect for our neighbors and creating a safe environment to raise our family. To assist in this last respect, the RDA provides a contract deputy for the district. Next time you see him on your street flag him down and tell him thank you for being there. He would be happy to visit with you.

District Roads Asset Management Plan

As part of the District Roads Asset Management Plan which has the goal of all roads within the district receiving some kind of surface treatment by 2020, the roads in Indian Trails, Baycrest Beach and Pointe Aux Peaux Farms were micro-surfaced in June. The next phase of the project is planned for the spring of 2018. These surface treatments will extend the life of the district roads.

Stony Point Peninsula / Stony Pointe Beach Seawall (Zone 2A)

The next phase of the RDA Seawall Rehabilitation Master Plan, the Brest Bay side of Stony Point Peninsula and pump station area of Stony Pointe Beach is currently underway. The contract was awarded to the low bidder, E.S. Wagner from Oregon, Ohio. This wall is similar in design to the prior two phases; aesthetically pleasing while reducing the risk of property loss due to flooding for many years to come. Construction is expected to be complete by late 2018.

Remember to keep the storm drain covers free from falling leaves this fall to prevent local flooding of your yard and driveway.



From The Building Department

By Joe Lehmann, Building Official

The Building Department has seen an increase of new homes being built this year! Seventeen new home permits have been issued as of June 2017. It is good to see that the economy is picking up in the area! Frenchtown Villa, Elizabeth Woods and Kimberly Estates have also been upgrading their facilities and have added 118 new homes. Frenchtown Township is also going to see some new commercial growth with the construction of Panda Express, Loves Travel Center and Coney Island restaurant. Promedica has also begun the process for a possible new hospital site to be located on North Dixie Highway. Contractors and Homeowners please remember to

call us to schedule inspections on your permits.

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From The Building Department *(continued from page 4)*

As a reminder we send out letters 30 days before your permit will expire.

With all the new homes and business popping up in the area we would like to mention Section R319.1 Address Identification requirements of the 2015 Michigan Residential Code. All homes shall be provided with legible and visible identification visible from the street. This is important for both inspection and safety purposes if emergency crews are ever called out for any reason to your home; please refer to this section if you have questions. Reflective address signs can be purchased from the Township Treasurer's Office at a reasonable cost to Township residents.

For our business owners in the area we would like to mention that there have been some recent changes to the Township Zoning Ordinance regarding signage. Please see Article 25 under our Building tab on the Township website www.Frenchtowntownship.org, where you may also find other helpful information such as permit requirements and printable forms for your convenience. Please be advised that flag and spinner type signs are not permitted by our ordinance. If you would like to apply for a temporary sign please refer to Article 25 for permitted signs.

Again, 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.

Please feel free to contact the Frenchtown Charter Township Building Department at 242-5900 and we will make every effort to help you with your concerns.



Water Utility Director

By Rich Weirich

Hope everyone has had a great summer! As we move into fall I wanted to remind everyone to start preparing your water lines for winter. A little work now could save you a big headache later. Take the time to make sure your crawl space is closed, your sprinkler systems are blown out, and your water lines are insulated. If you have any questions about steps to help in preventing a freeze up, please feel free to call the office.

I know there has been a lot of news on the possibility of a large Algae bloom in Lake Erie this year. It is predicted to be very large, but not as toxic as when 400,000 people in the Toledo area lost their water supply. We are still testing for the Algae issue in Lake Erie. At the time I am writing this article, we have seen very low number. We have not detected any in our raw or drinking water system this year. I will continue to post the result to our webpage as they become available.

As a reminder, if you should receive a shut off notice for your water bill, the Township no longer accepts checks as payment for shut offs. The shut off notice can be paid by Cash, Money Order or Credit Card. Credit Card payments will require a processing fee.

As always, if you have any question on the topics of this article or any other water treatment related issue, please feel free to call me in the office.

Frenchtown Fire Department's Hot Topics

By Wendy Stevens, Fire Chief



A heartfelt thank you from Frenchtown Fire Department to the members of the Frenchtown Township community for your support of our Capital Millage this past May. Your choice to maintain our funding for the needs of the department has not gone unappreciated. The Capital Millage supported by you is being utilized to begin the process for new apparatus purchasing to replace aging engines, already well past their NFPA recommended life span of 20 years. Additionally the millage is being used to update the fire stations. The firefighter's living quarters at both Stations 1 and 2 are original from 1989 and 1990, respectively. Kitchens and dormitories need improvements to provide healthy

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Frenchtown Fire Department's Hot Topics *(continued from page 5)*

and clean environments. These necessary improvements will provide the firefighters with the resources to continue to professionally serve your needs.

As summer is coming to an end and we prepare for the autumn season and the outdoor activities that entails, football games, pumpkin patches, raking leaves; keep in mind our **opening burning dates are October 20th to November 30th** with no permit required for yard waste only, no construction debris, tires, etc. If a recreational fire is desired to enjoy the season it must not exceed three (3) feet in diameter or three (3) feet in height located in a pit, grill, trenched area or some other effective containment area with the exception of burn barrels (which are not allowed per the township burning ordinance.) If you have additional questions regarding the ordinance it can be located in its entirety at http://frenchtowntownship.org/bui_genordinance.php.

Prepare your home and family for winter; have your furnaces and chimneys cleaned, change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors, develop a home safety plan for emergencies and practice two (2) ways out of every room and every building. If you have any questions or need assistance with these recommendations please contact Frenchtown Fire Department. We will be happy to assist.

Again thank you for your continued support, we are here to serve you.

Library News

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

It is a beautiful, hot, hot, hot summer day as I begin to write my entry for the next Frenchtown Township newsletter. The purpose of this brief article is to share with our township residents all the exciting and fun activities we have planned, in our libraries, for the fall and winter. It is hard to imagine children returning to school in a little over a month and autumn will be here. And a new season of library activities will begin!

The summer reading program, "Build a Better World" ends on August 31st. Just in time for the storytime year to begin. The week of September 10, 2017 marks the beginning of the storytime season in the Frenchtown area libraries. On Wednesday mornings @ 10:30 a.m., join Miss Anne at the Frenchtown Dixie Library on Nadeau Rd. Preschoolers will enjoy stories, music, movement and crafts with a group of friends. On Friday mornings @ 10:30 a.m., Miss Liz will entertain preschoolers with stories, music, crafting and fun at the Blue Bush Library. Toddler storytimes, for children 36 months and younger, will take place on Monday mornings at our Frenchtown Dixie branch at 10:30 a.m.

Special monthly "crafter-noons" will start again in September at the R.A. Vivian library. Once a month, children can join our crafty staff for a drop-in "crafter-noon" and create fun seasonal projects. Also, at our Vivian branch enjoy our monthly family friendly movie nights! Check the Monroe County Library Systems web page soon for dates and times of these events.

When the evenings get cooler and the leaves start to fall be sure to make your calendars for October 23rd and 25th. On October 23rd, at the Frenchtown Dixie branch, bring your little ghosts and goblins, your princesses and your ninjas for our annual Pumpkin Parade. This event, for children 10 and under, finds children and parents wandering down the pumpkin path and gathering treats along the way. This is a delightful way to spend an early evening with the family. On Wednesday, October 25th, we will once again celebrate the season with our Trunk or Treat night at our Vivian Road branch. Children in costumes and their grown-ups will trick or treat in the parking lot of the Frenchtown Township Hall parking lot. This safe venue with friends and staff will be fun for everyone. Watch our website for more details about The Bluebush Boo Bash, also in October.

Books clubs continue throughout the year at our three Frenchtown Libraries. Enjoy good books, lively discussions and visiting with friends at our book clubs. Join the staff at the Bluebush library on the 1st Wednesday of the month for a Mystery book club. Visit the Frenchtown Dixie library on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. for book club. The Soup for the Soul book club meets at Frenchtown Dixie on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m. And don't forget An Afternoon Read book club at our Vivian Library on the 4th Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Plans are currently underway for a new Classic Book Club at our Bluebush library, watch for more details.

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Library News *(continued from page 6)*

Craft programs are among our favorites, at the library. “Sit! Chat! Finish That! is a monthly event at the Bluebush branch, they will meet on 9/20, 10/24 and 11/15 at 6:30 p.m., bring a craft you are working on and get it done with friends. Other craft programs will take place in our branches this fall - stay tuned for more information.

Rounding out the year, in December, be sure to visit your local libraries for fun and festivities. Our annual “Jingle Mingle” will be held at Frenchtown Dixie on Monday the 4th. The man in the red suit will also be visiting our Bluebush library and our Vivian library during the month of December. We still have lots of ideas and programs to plan for the fall and winter, be sure to check the Monroe County Library Systems web site at www.monroe.lib.mi.us and click on “See Full Calendar” for times and dates of upcoming events.

One last thing, I would like to take moment and introduce you to Libby. Libby is the one-tap reading app from Overdrive for downloadable books. It is much easier to use and set up than the previous Overdrive app. If you go to our web site, www.monroe.lib.mi.us there is an instructional video to watch. All you need is an up-to-date library card and a supported device to get started. Happy reading...or listening!

Remember to stop in and visit your local library soon; check out a book or a movie, attend a program or just come in and visit. See what is happening at your Monroe County Library System, hope to see you soon.

Frenchtown Senior Citizens, Inc.

By Barbara Mazur, Executive Director

As summer begins to close very soon, we continue to be busy with new activities and programs. Also dues are due for 2018. The membership dues will remain the same as 2017. You can help us to remain at the same rate as 2017. The fundraisers also help with expenses.

If you have any thoughts and/or ideas, please do not hesitate to share with the staff. Please remember the center is for your enjoyment and you are always welcome.

There will be staff changes for the New Year because of retirements! Any questions, please do not hesitate to call 734-243-6210 and ask for Barbara.

A big thank you to Mary Kittle for the donation of a ping pong table, paddles etc. We appreciate all donations. Enjoy the rest of the beautiful summer.

Frenchtown Recreation

By Larry Chinavare

I would like to start this newsletter with a big thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work during the summer programs. They all do a great job, as we had over 900 children and adults participating in our summer program this year. Director of the Tot Lot program John Naveaux reported some areas were up in numbers and a few were down from last year. Congratulations to the all the teams who participated this year and a special thanks to all the coaches for the time they put into our program. Without them the program would not be a success.

Please keep the following dates in mind, as the Halloween Party will be held on October 28th at Kiwanis Park on Nadeau Road from 12 PM till 1:30 PM and the Christmas party will be held on December 9th at the Frenchtown Senior Citizens Center on Vivian Road next to the Township Hall from 12 PM till 1:30 PM. All Township residents are welcome to attend. More information will be available on the Frenchtown Charter Township Web Site.

As a reminder I am located in the Recreation Building/Senior Citizens Building. My phone number is 243-1REC, email lchinavare@frenchtownsenior.com. Your comments and concerns are always encouraged.

In closing I would like to ask parents or residents to consider coaching in our Little League Program. If you are interested in coaching next year please call Phil Coyle at 734-430-2827. Also the Recreation 5 Year plan has been revised this year and can be reviewed on the Township Web site. Thanks and have a great rest of the Summer.

Frenchtown Charter Township

2744 Vivian Road
Monroe, Michigan 48162

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2017 Township Meetings Schedule

Township Board

- 2nd Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
- 3rd Tuesday / Workshop Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

- 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.
- 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

- 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Commission

- 1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Resort District Authority

- 2nd Wednesday 3:00 p.m.

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, 2786 Vivian Road, Monroe Michigan.

Additional Meetings

Lake Erie Transit, 1105 West Seventh St.,
Monroe

1st Thursday - 9:00 a.m.

Senior Citizen Board, 2786 Vivian Road,
Monroe

3rd Wednesday - 9:00 a.m.

Mark J. Baker, Clerk