

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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January 2012

Trustees Working to Remedy Unsafe Structures

The Franklin Township Board of Trustees support the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's grant opportunities provided to our local Townships. These grants will allow for the removal of structures in our own areas that pose a health risk and/or have been determined to lack structural integrity. These type structures continue to drag down property values for the

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neighborhoods where they exist. As of this date two homes have been recommended for removal as part of the first two rounds of grant application. The Trustees plan to continue taking advantage of all grants made available to save the Township taxpayers the expense. The Trustees look forward to the success that this program will have and hope that future-funding rounds will allow for additional clean-ups where it is most needed in Franklin County and in Franklin Township.

Advice for Winter Weather

From a written statement released by FEMA Region V of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

With winter just around the corner, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V reminds everyone to start preparing for the possibility of severe winter storms and extreme temperatures. Midwesterners can find helpful tips and recommendations to help them get prepared at www.ready.gov/winter.

"Most of us in the Midwest are familiar with severe winter weather, but you can never be too prepared," FEMA Region V Administrator Andrew Velasquez III said. "Take the time now to winterize both your home and your vehicle to protect you and your family."

Severe winter weather can include snow or subfreezing temperatures, strong winds and ice or heavy rainstorms. An emergency supply kit at home and in the car will help prepare people for power outages and icy or impassable roads.

An emergency supply kit should include a three-day supply of food and water for each person, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries, and any items to meet the unique needs of your family. In preparation for winter weather, thoroughly check and update your family's emergency supply kit to include:

- Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website for a complete list of recommended products.
- Sand to improve traction.
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, be sure to store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood. If your heat goes out, never use a generator or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home.
- Adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.

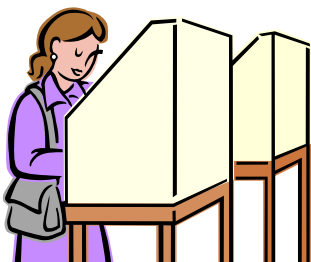
Additionally, these tips will help you, and your family, get through the winter:

- Make a family communications plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.



Election Results

Votes have been certified from the election held on November 8, 2011. Tim Guyton was reelected as Trustee for Franklin Township and Lisa Morris was reelected as the Fiscal Officer. Tim will serve as your Trustee through December 31, 2015 while Lisa will serve as your Fiscal Officer until March 31, 2016. Congratulations to both!



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FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Road Department News

Your Road Department will pick up live cut Christmas trees on your normal trash collection day. Please remove all lights, decorations and hooks so that they don't damage our chipping machine.



The Franklin Township Road Department replaced/updated all of their snow emergency No Parking signs in 2010/2011. These signs are located in every area where we have curbs on the street. The purpose of the signs is to assure that our snowplows have safe access to the roadway to clear snow. On-street parking of vehicles makes this task difficult, if not unsafe. To that point, the signs clearly state "No Parking when 2" of snow has accumulated. These signs are enforceable by our Police Department. We ask for your help in this matter by paying attention to weather forecasts and changing conditions. If inclement weather is predicted, please move your vehicles to the driveway. Your attention will ultimately benefit the safe passage for all of our residents.

Fire Department News

Safe Use & Selection of Kerosene Heaters:

Rising Heating Bills have continued to be a source of frustration and sometimes hardship for many. In an effort to resolve the problem, more and more people are turning to alternative heating methods such as wood burning stoves, electric space heaters, and kerosene heaters. The latter has been the most popular choice of urban dwellers.

When selecting a kerosene heater, consider:

Heat Output: No heater will heat the whole house. One or two rooms are a good rule of thumb. Read the heater's labeling carefully for BTU produced.

Safety Listing: Has the heater been tested by one of the major safety laboratories such as UL for construction and safety features?

New/Used Heaters: Second hand, used or repaired heaters may be bad investments and a fire hazard. When buying a used or reconditioned heater, that purchase should be accompanied by the owner's manual or operating instructions. Other points to consider would be: checking the condition of the tip-over switch, fuel gauge, ignition system, fuel tank, and the condition of the grill surrounding the heating element. Also, look for the label from a major safety laboratory (UL).

Safety Features: Does the heater have its own igniter or do you use matches? The heater must be equipped with an

Police Department News

Traffic Control:

For many years the Township Trustees have received numerous complaints from the citizens about speeding cars on the Township roads. Little could be done except have the Franklin Township police officers set up radar in their cars in attempts to catch the alleged "speeders". This system worked when the officers were able to set up radar between their calls for service. Something needed to be done to make this a more efficient effort.

On July 26, 2011, the Trustees approved the purchase of a radar based traffic- recording device. A JAMAR radar recorder kit was received by the Police Department and placed into service to begin monitoring the Township roads and traffic. Chief Timko has been placing the traffic recorder unit on various Township roads and gathers data from the computerized traffic recorder. The computer program processes the information and creates various reports from which the Police Department and the Road Department will be better able to serve the citizens.

The traffic recorder uses radar from a pole mounted position to capture and measure the vehicles on any given roadway. The speed of the vehicles, the time of day, the number of vehicles, and even the size of vehicles can be measured and recorded. From the data gathered, reports can be analyzed to determine if there is in fact a speeding problem on a roadway. If a problem is identified, police officers are scheduled to be at a given location when the reports indicate the most speeding has been recorded. This makes a better use of police officer time for enforcement instead of sitting idle waiting for traffic during times that violators are less likely to drive by.

The Road Department benefits from the recorded data as now they can get an actual count as to how many cars drive down a road, in both directions, on an hourly, daily, and weekly basis to plan for road repairs and maintenance. If a road is heavily traveled by large trucks damages to the road occur and when such traffic can be identified the issue can be better controlled using data to justify speed limits and truck route signs.

In the near future, once sufficient reports are completed, the information will be placed on the Township Internet website for public review and access.

New Shotguns:

On December 14, 2011 the Franklin Township Police Department placed an order with Vance's Law Enforcement Supply Co., for four new Remington shotguns for the Police Department. The trustees approved the purchase during the last meeting for \$1,740.00 allowing Chief Timko to upgrade the department's weapons. The old shotguns were twenty-four years old and were showing signs of wear and tear. There were problems with the old shotguns fitting into the locking mounting systems in the police cars and safety was a primary issue. The new guns are on order and will be on the streets soon. The old shotguns were used as a trade-in value to reduce the purchase price to the Township. Chief Timko is also looking at the officer's equipment and weapons and is making efforts to upgrade training and replace equipment as problems are found. Police officer safety and service to the public are the most important considerations in these efforts. The Chief and the Township Trustees have addressed several issues as they were found and are looking to identify any others in the future.

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Winter Weather – cont. from page 1

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS) and public safety officials. Be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep an emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas.

Finally, everyone should get familiar with the terms that are used to identify a winter storm hazard and discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued. Terms used to describe a winter storm hazard include the following:

- Freezing Rain creates a coating of ice on roads and walkways.
- Sleet is rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes roads to freeze and become slippery.
- Winter Weather Advisory means cold, ice and snow are expected.
- Winter Storm Watch means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two.
- Winter Storm Warning means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Kerosene Heaters – cont. from page 2

automatic shut off. Ask the dealer to demonstrate its function should the heater be knocked over.

Proper Use of a Kerosene Heater

Follow the manufacturer's directions, in particular those describing ventilation of the heater. To ensure adequate ventilation, have a window ajar or leave a door open to an adjoining room to provide an exchange of air. Heaters should never be left burning overnight or while sleeping.

There is a potential for adverse health effects caused by pollutants produced by unvented space heaters. If dizziness, drowsiness, chest pain, fainting, or respiratory irritation occurs, shut off the heater at once and move the affected person to fresh air.

Place a heater no closer than three feet to combustible materials such as drapes, furniture, or wall coverings. Keep doorways and halls clear. In case of fire, a heater should not be blocking your escape.

Keep children away from the heater while it is operating to prevent contact burns. Some heater surfaces can reach temperatures of several hundred degrees Fahrenheit under normal operating conditions.

If you have a fire, sound the alarm and get everyone out of the house. Call the fire department without delay from your neighbor's house. Never try to go back into a burning home for any reason.

SWAC Meeting Dates for 2012

SWAC is the abbreviation for the newest Columbus City Area Commission. The letters stand for **S**outh**W**est **A**rea **C**ommission. Their boundaries are the railroad tracks just west of 3C highway on the west, Mound Street on the north, Interstate 71 South on the east, and I-270 on the south. This area encompasses land that lays 50% in Columbus, 40% in Franklin Township, and 10% in Jackson Township.

It is our goal to support their endeavors to make land use and development synonymous amongst the various entities. The meetings are held at 1665 Harrisburg Pike. These meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00 P.M. Listed below are the meetings for 2012:

January 18th February 15th March 21st

Carbon Monoxide (CO) The Silent Killer

Carbon Monoxide is a poisonous gas that can kill you when breathed. You can't see it, smell it, or taste it. It is sometimes called the "silent killer" because it sneaks up on you and takes your life without warning. When we breathe air containing carbon monoxide, it is absorbed through the bloodstream; it displaces oxygen; and it inhibits the blood's ability to carry oxygen to vital organs such as the heart and brain. Carbon Monoxide is a by-product of incomplete combustion. Any fuel-burning device has the potential to produce dangerous levels of CO gas. For additional information, contact your local fire department or write to: The Division of State Fire Marshal, 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.



Reminder

When you change your clocks on March 11, 2012 remember to change your smoke detector batteries!

Please Remember

Yard waste is included as part of your trash service. As a reminder, yard waste is not allowed to go to the trash dump. You must use your designated yard waste containers for yard waste to be picked up by Local Waste. They cannot pick-up yard waste that is in plastic bags or boxes. You also may place brush and limbs out for pick-up by our Road Department. Please make sure that all of the branches face away from the street to make it easier for collection. No branches can be larger than 5" in diameter.

2012 Franklin Township Business Meeting Schedule

Bi-weekly Meetings are held every other Thursday. The Board will determine the time at the first meeting, which will be held on January 5, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. at 2193 Frank Road.

Township Budget Update

As some of you may already know, the State of Ohio had an \$8 billion budget deficit that had to be corrected. In part, this was accomplished by reducing the amount of Local Government monies to the various entities around Ohio. For Franklin Township, this means a loss of approximately \$325,000 from our General Fund for 2012's budget year. As always, the Trustees meet with the Department heads at the end of January to finalize the budget. We will be working with each Department to assure that all current services are maintained and we will continue to look for ways to reduce costs and share resources both in-house, as well as with other entities.

Fight Illegal Dumping

Do you have a problem with illegal dumping in your neighborhood? There's help to battle those people who leave those old couches, tires, and more where they shouldn't. [SWACO's Environmental Crimes Task Force of Central Ohio](#) stands ready to track down the bad guys and prosecute them for their crimes. SWACO Program Manager reminds us you can take advantage of a 24-hour-a-day hotline as well at 614-871-5322. The Environmental Crimes Unit is made up of representatives from Franklin County Public Health, the Franklin County Prosecutor's office, the Franklin County Sheriff's office and the Columbus Division of Refuse.

Commercial Building Department

In June of 2011, Franklin Township was approved to have our own Commercial Building Department. The purpose of this action was to provide a quicker turnaround of plan approval for Contractors and to have better internal control of activities within our Township. In many cases, we were never aware of construction activity as plan approval happened at the State of Ohio level and the information did not get passed down to us. All costs to support this department come from application fees, plan approval, and inspection fees. Our goal was not only to be quicker and more efficient for the contractor, but also to be a little cheaper for them as well. We wish to be business friendly whenever possible as commercial properties within our Township pay the bulk of our property taxes which help keep our residential taxes as low as possible.

Tire Disposal:

Liberty Tire
3041 Jackson Pike
Grove City, Ohio 43123
614-871-3088
Hours: 7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. weekdays,
closed Saturday & Sunday



Franklin Township Website

We cannot stress the importance of checking our Township website often! All late breaking news, minutes for our Township meetings, agendas for upcoming meetings, etc. are all posted there. It is the best way to stay informed.

Visit us at www.franklin-township.com.

Franklin Township Directory

Fire Department Emergency911
Chief Richard Howard.....279-1537
4100 Sullivant Ave., Columbus, 43228
Houses; Engine 192, Medic 192
Foam Truck 199, Total of 39 Full-time
Firefighting Personnel in both houses.

Station 193279-1441
2193 Frank Rd, Columbus, 43223
Houses: Engine 193, Medic 193

Fire/EMS Training Bureau
Lt. James Welch279-0089

Fire Prevention Bureau
Lt. Larry Geiger279-9411

Road Department
Supervisor, Jim Stevens

Five Person crew279-9411
2193 Frank Road, Columbus 43223
Road garage houses 3 dump trucks,
jet-vacuum, brush chipper, leaf vacuum, asphalt
roller, and 3 snowplows.

Police Department Emergency911
Non-emergency Dispatch525-3333
Chief Jim Timko.....279-9411
Sgt. Chris Beach.....279-9411

Headquarters
2193 Frank Road, Columbus, 43223
Total of 10 full-time Police Officers in the
Police Department

Security check on your home while you're
away.....279-9411

Local Waste.....409-9375

Franklin County Offices
Public Health.....525-3160
Trash525-4539
Tall grass/weeds279-9411
Nail a Dumper871-5322

Zoning.....525-3094
280 E. Broad Street

Engineers.....525-3072

Board of Trustees:

Timothy Guyton, Chairman: 276-6946
Serving term 01/01/12 – 12/31/15

Don Cook, Vice-Chairman: 272-2094
Serving term 01/01/10 – 12/31/13

Paul Johnson, Trustee: 276-1600
Serving Term 01/01/10 – 12/31/13

Lisa Morris, Fiscal Officer: 279-9411
Serving term 04/1/12 – 03/31/16

Sandy Hodge, 279-9411
Business Office Secretary

Board of Elections: 525-3100

Animal Control: 525-3400

Prosecutors Office: 525-3520

Juvenile Bureau: 525-3355

Reflective House Number Signs

Reflective house number signs (18" x 6") can be purchased at the Township Business Office. The signs are aluminum with a green reflective background and white reflective numbers. Signs can be mounted either horizontally or vertically and with numbers on both sides. The cost is \$5.00 per sign, \$0.17 per number.