

FRENCHTOWN T O D A Y

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

SPRING 2024

VOLUME 27 — ISSUE 1

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POINTS OF CONTACT

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TWP.

(734) 242-3282

Water (Billing).....	Press 1
Treasurer	Press 2
Supervisor	Press 3
Clerk.....	Press 4
Building	Press 5
Assessing.....	Press 6

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.

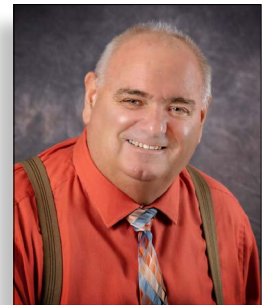
frenchtowntownship.org

from the supervisor's desk

by Lisa Hammar

Alan (Al) VanWashenova, Supervisor

SPRING HAS ARRIVED! At least according to the calendar. While we still may have cooler days ahead, the sunshine is reappearing and giving a glimpse of warmer temperatures. Farmers begin preparing the fields for planting as homeowners clean up the yards and begin to envision their flower and vegetable gardens. So, as we venture out of hibernation and look around, concerns are unavoidable. Our team makes every effort to follow up on any issues and address any questions that are reported to the Township offices. On behalf of the Supervisor's Department and all of us at Frenchtown Charter Township, I wish you and your family a wonderful year.



trash service

Stevens Disposal is the company Frenchtown Charter Township has contracted with to provide rubbish and yard waste collection. Additional carts may be rented annually through Stevens Disposal **1 (800) 779-0344**.

- ▶ Please set trash carts out the night before your scheduled pick-up day.
- ▶ Anything that does not fit in your container is a bulk item and you must contact Lisa at (734) 242-3282 ext. 3 to schedule bulk pickup.

yard waste collection

YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS APRIL 1, 2024

- ▶ **BLUE CARTS** with *Yard Waste Only* stickers, smaller old style garbage cans with *Yard Waste Only* stickers and leaf bags are all able to be used for yard waste pick-up.
- ▶ Each address is allotted one cart. Additional carts may be rented annually through Stevens Disposal 1-800-779-0344. Missing carts are the financial responsibility of the homeowner and will not be replaced without a police report.

bulk items

If you have large items that do not fit in your container, we need a minimum of 24 hours' notice to schedule a bulk pick up. Please be mindful of township hol-

...continued on page 2

Supervisor's Report continued...

days that fall before a bulk pickup day as this may affect the schedule. You may contact **Lisa** at (734) 242-3282, ext.3 to arrange for the collection of bulk items.

- ▶ Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units and dehumidifiers must have freon removed and certified tagged by an HVAC company.
- ▶ **Prohibited items:**
Yard waste, concrete, brick, blocks, asphalt, dirt and stone, tires, wheels, brake rotors and drums, metal, or steel automotive parts (including seats), oils, stain, and solvents (considered hazardous waste), and no propane or helium tanks/cylinders.
- ▶ Yard waste should be placed curbside, apart from your household trash, the night before your scheduled trash service day.
- ▶ **Blue Carts** with Yard Waste Only stickers, smaller old style garbage cans with Yard Waste Only stickers and leaf bags are all able to be used for Yard Waste pick-up when it starts in the spring.

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
WILL RUN ONE DAY BEHIND:
Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day**

road information & projects

- ▶ A private road is defined as a road that has not been certified and 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.
- ▶ Information on road and bridge closures in Monroe County can be found on the MDOT website:

<https://mdotjboss.state.mi.us/MiDrive/construction>

street light outages

Please call (734) 242-3282, option 3 to report a street-light out with the following information:

- ▶ Location (address or corner streets): **an address is needed to report.** Pole #number, if available.
- ▶ Once reported, it may take 7 to 10 business days for DTE to service.

in closing

We try very hard to follow up on any concerns or

grievances that are reported to the Township offices. The entire Frenchtown team always has your best interests in mind and will work continuously to resolve issues and address any questions.



On behalf of the Supervisor's Department and all of us at Frenchtown Charter Township, I wish you and your family a wonderful Spring!



MEMORY LANE DRIVE-IN WILL BE
OPENING MARCH 28TH!
MY GRANDKIDS LOVE IT!

PHOENIX MOVIE THEATER HAS THE
BEST SEATS – A RELAXING EXPERIENCE.

THE BATTING CAGES WILL BE BACK
SOON AT SPORTS GARDEN AND
OLDTOWN GOLF AND SPORTLAND.

LOWES, MARGOS, MEIJER AND
WALMART HAVE SOME GREAT PLANTS.
IF YOU NEED HELP WITH LANDSCAP-
ING GIVE DAVE'S LANDSCAPING OR
MARGOS A CALL.

WHEN I HAVE A TASTE FOR MEXICAN
FOOD EL MAGUEY, EL VAQUERO,
ODOBA, TEQUERIA'S OR TACO BELL
HITS THE SPOT.



treasurer's office update

by Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Hello from the Treasurer's Office!

Hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and safe! We are all doing well in the Treasurer's Office.

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

As promised, on-line bill payment is up and running. Please note there are fees associated with online bill payments. Please follow the instructions below when making a payment on a personal computer:



- ▶ Visit our website homepage: www.frenchtowncharterwp.org.
- ▶ Scroll down and click on the **BS&A Online** website link.
- ▶ On the left-hand side of the page under **Services** click **Current Tax Payments** or **Utility Billing Payments**.
- ▶ Search for your bill by **name, address, or parcel number**. Please note when searching by address only enter the **street number** as street names may appear differently in the program.
- ▶ Choose your property and click **Make a Payment**.
- ▶ Enter payment information and click **Continue**.
- ▶ Check the box to **Agree to Terms and Conditions**.
- ▶ Click **Submit Payment**.

If you're using your **smart phone** to make a payment, please use these instructions:

- ▶ Click on the **BS&A Online** website link on our home page at frenchtowncharterwp.org.

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clerk's office update

by Kyle Bryant, Clerk

Greetings from your local Clerk's office. We pride ourselves on a strong core belief: WE WORK FOR YOU. I was elected to serve you and I would love to hear your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. It is my utmost priority to make sure I am reflecting your interests and priorities. I encourage residents to reach out at our office line: (734) 242-5800 or email at kyle@frenchtownmi.gov.

Recycling: The Frenchtown recycling center is located in the Mall of Monroe parking lot on the Phoenix Theaters side and is operational from 7 am – 3 pm each Wednesday. There is always a Frenchtown employee present to provide assistance and to ensure proper recycling procedures are followed. A reminder, it is important that recyclable materials are separated before being placed into one of the three (labeled) bins. There is a bin for **cardboard** and two bins for **plastic, paper, and tin**. A detailed image of acceptable material can be found on the Frenchtown Charter Township website under the Recycling tab.

Farmers Market: We are excited to announce the introduction of a Farmers Market! Details as far as launch date and schedule are still pending, but we hope to announce those details by the next issue of the Newsletter. Please keep an eye on our website for announcements as that progresses. Vendors interested in participating in the Farmers Market are encouraged to reach out to **Dave Uhl** at (734) 242-5900.

Election Update: Thanks to the hard work of the Clerk's staff and our dedicated team of election inspectors, we have successfully administered the February 27th Presidential Primary. This is a huge election year for Frenchtown Township as we now turn our attention to the **August 6th Primary Election and the November 5th General Election**. We are actively seeking election inspectors for both of those elections. If you have any interest in joining the team, applications can be found at the Clerk's office or by email by reaching out to us at: clerk@frenchtownmi.gov.

Elections in the State of Michigan look a little different now that Proposal 2022-2 has been implemented. We are excited to now offer **9 days of early voting** before every State and Federal Election. This change allows voters more options than ever to make their voice heard. All qualified electors have the right to mark a ballot and deposit the ballot in the tabulator beginning the second Saturday before an election

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from the editor

by Chris Collins, Editor

I am absolutely looking forward to the **April 8th 2024 Total Solar Eclipse**. It will be viewable from Mexico to Maine and although Frenchtown is not inside the path of totality it will still be a rare opportunity to see a truly spectacular astronomical event.

What is a solar eclipse? The simple answer is a solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the earth causing the moon to at least partially obscure the sun resulting in a shadow being cast across a narrow pathway along the earth's surface. Whereas, a total solar eclipse occurs when the moon and sun are aligned nearly perfect as viewed from a particular location on earth resulting in a brief but total obscurement of the sun. What's more is that despite the moon being 400 times smaller than the sun it is still able to completely block out the sunlight because the sun is 400 times further away from the earth than the moon. This is

why the sun and the moon appears to be relatively the same size in the sky when viewed from earth.

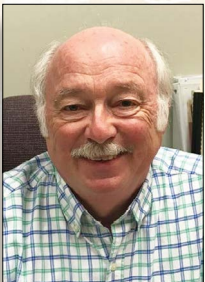
A similar, more common astronomical event occurs when the earth passes between the moon and sun resulting in a **lunar eclipse**. The biggest difference outside of the obvious is visibility perspective and opportunity. The moon is much smaller than the earth and so its shadow is likewise much smaller making the viewing opportunity rare and having an opportunity to view a total solar eclipse is rarer still.



Here is a list of 10 facts regarding solar eclipses:

- ▶ The word "eclipse" is taken from the Greek "ekleipsis" which basically translates to "abandonment"
- ▶ The ancient Babylonians calculated the periodicity of solar eclipse cycles to be around 6,585 days. This is referred to as the Saros Cycle and that same periodicity is calculated today at 6585.321 days. (Not, too bad! I would at least give them partial credit provided they had shown their work, of course.)

...continued next page



notes from the resort district authority

by Larry Smith, Director

The new year of 2024 has started out very uneventful. Punxsutawney Phil reportedly didn't see his shadow so we can expect an early spring, if the ground hogs prognostication is correct. This is a welcome respite from the events of last year, an ice storm in February, an EF1 tornado in June and a 500 year rain storm in August. The community stepped up and was able to get through these unplanned events successfully; however we hope not to have a repeat of these challenges.

Despite those unplanned events, the RDA was able to accomplish several planned goals in 2023. The following is a list of planned goals that were completed in 2023:

- ▶ Conducted a formal evaluation of the Pavement Asset Management Program's effectiveness on district roads and identified a plan going forward. As a result, one half of

the districts roads were crack sealed in 2023.

- ▶ Completed starter motor replacement program in the storm drain pump stations, improving the reliability of the pumping stations.
- ▶ Completed the plan and design of the seawall rehabilitation project on Stony Point Peninsula (Zone 2B/2C) and submitted for regulatory approval.
- ▶ Repaired clay berms subsequent to record high water levels and resultant varmint infestation.
- ▶ Placed a new police patrol car, **2023 Chevrolet Tahoe**, in service. If you see it in your neighborhood patrolling, flag the officer down and say "hello!" We need to let them know we appreciate them working to keep our community a safe place to live.

Major projects for 2024 will be to crack seal the remainder of the district roads, continue to progress the seawall project (Zone 2B/2C) and relocate the RDA office to the new N. Dixie Hwy municipal complex when it is finished (see article elsewhere in the newsletter).

Warmer weather will bring spring rains, so make sure the storm drain catch basins are free from all debris, and children will be outside so observe the speed limit for their safety. It is our desire for everyone to stay safe and healthy!

From the Editor continued from page 4...

- ▶ There are generally 3 types of solar eclipses: Partial, Annular and Total. (*note: there is an additional or Hybrid eclipse type resulting from the curvature of the earth as the moon shadow moves across the sky; an eclipse may shift from annular to a total eclipse.)
- ▶ A solar eclipse can only occur during the “new moon” or “full moon” phases.
- ▶ The shadow of the moon during a total eclipse is known as an Umbra. It is called a Penumbra during a partial eclipse and an Antumbra during an annular eclipse.
- ▶ The duration of “darkness” during total solar eclipse can exceed 7 minutes.
- ▶ The moon is slowly moving away from the earth making

solar eclipses in the far distant future impossible.

- ▶ The Sun’s outermost layer known as the corona is only visible from earth during a total solar eclipse.
- ▶ Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity was confirmed in part due to experiments conducted during a solar eclipse which occurred on May 29, 1919.
- ▶ If you’re having trouble deciding your favorite viewing spot for this year’s total solar eclipse, don’t worry, another one will occur over that exact spot again in about 375 years.

I truly hope you get an opportunity to see this rare celestial event, but please remember it is NEVER safe to gaze directly into the sun without the proper equipment. In fact, as a general rule, don’t forget to always use protective eyewear, clothing and sunscreen when outdoors.

from the building department

by Carmen Froehlich

The sweet smell of spring in the air summons a new growing season and maybe a project or two for homeowners! As the ground warms and flowers sprout everywhere throughout Frenchtown we likewise follow suit with new growth, businesses, and developers continuing to gravitate to our Township.

Frenchtown is open for Business, and it shows! Streamlining some previous obstacles to development and revisions to our Ordinance has made us a little more user friendly.

Homeowners, we would just like to remind you to check in with the Building Department before starting any projects or alterations. Be aware of the requirements both within the Ordinance and the Michigan Building Code. Our annual Michigan week celebration runs from May 6th thru the 10th and permits for windows, roofing, doors, siding, driveways and cement flat work will be issued free of charge. There will be a picnic on May 10th to show appreciation to Contractors, Businesses and Homeowners. Please stop by to join us for some free eats!

Permits for work on the home you reside in may be obtained by the owner of the property. However, it may be in your best interest when hiring a contractor for them to be responsible for applying instead. Ask them for a copy of the permit obtained for your jobsite. You may also want to structure the final payment for a project to be contingent upon final inspection approval. Your contractor is responsible for contacting the Township to schedule all required inspections.

Sunshine and warmer weather is also the start of grass season. Feel free to reach out to Mr. Brett Ansel, who has recently been added to the Building Department staff if you would like to file a complaint. The website link to report any property that needs attention, whether it be tall grass or a Blight issue is frenchtownmi.gov/building/. Mr. Ansel is here to assist with compliance and to encourage neighbors to work towards keeping our Township safe and beautiful for all!

This spring-cleanup, be mindful that any bulk items you would like to dispose of need to be placed by the road and you will need to contact the Supervisor’s office clerical staff to arrange for pick up at (734) 242-3282 extension #3.



As always, the Building Department is here to help both residents and commercial businesses with any 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 the direct number to reach us is (734) 242-5900. We are happy to help. For your convenience, fillable printable permit applications are available on our

website: frenchtownmi.gov. You may print them to drop off in person or send them in the mail. There is also a drop box by the front door for after hours. Most permits can be issued immediately at the counter during regular business hours. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



library news

by Paula Sandefur

If you walk into the Community Room of the Frenchtown-Dixie Branch on a Wednesday morning, you will see toddlers and preschoolers singing, dancing, and chasing bubbles with Shannon,



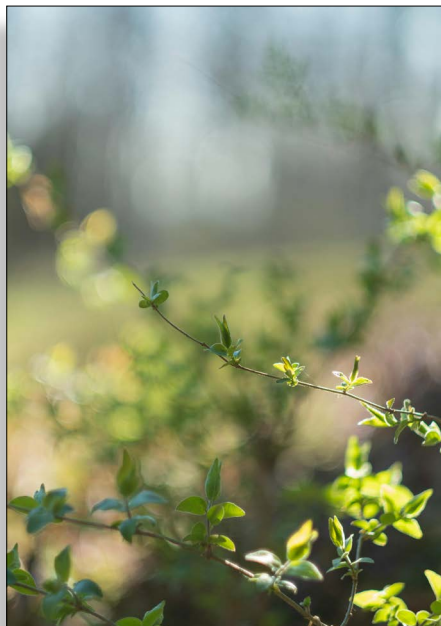
Miss Shannon

or Miss Shannon as the kids know her. Miss Shannon, who has been the Youth Services Technician for the Frenchtown-Dixie Library and the R.A. Vivian Library since 2019, is having as much fun as the kids.

She often wears library shirts with her Storytime theme on them that she created herself. **Storytimes** are held at **9 am and 10:30 am on Wednesday mornings** at the **Frenchtown-Dixie Library** and **10 am on Fridays at the R.A. Vivian Branch Library**.

Shannon studied Early Education in college. At one point she wanted to open her own daycare center, and at another point, she wanted to be a teacher. After Shannon and her husband, Troy, had their four sons, Shannon decided to put

her education to use and began to homeschool them. They would spend a lot of time at the library and with other homeschool families. She recently started a Group for homeschool families at the Frenchtown-Dixie Branch. When she sees a need for a program, she is willing to try something new to help others.



In addition to Children's Programming, Shannon also runs the Inspirational Book Club at Frenchtown-Dixie called Soup for the Soul. She also started a Lego Challenge Program on the third Saturday of each month at the Frenchtown-Dixie Branch. You can often find her sitting on the floor during the program, building things alongside the kids. Another thing she was instrumental in starting was the drop-in craft table for kids. Kids can create a craft when they visit the Frenchtown-Dixie Branch with an adult.

For more info on any of these programs or for info on any other MCLS programs

please go to mymcls.com.

frenchtown assessing department

Greetings from the Assessing staff! Here are some important dates and facts to remember as the seasons change...

Assessment notices will be sent out to all property owners a minimum of 14 days before the March Board of Review. **This is not a tax bill.** If you disagree with the Assessed Valuation, first contact our assessing office to ensure there isn't an error on your assessment and to discuss how the assessment was developed. Be sure to look over this notice to ensure accuracy. This document lists your property Classification, Taxable Value, Assessed Value, State Equalized Value, and Exemption status. Taxable values in conjunction with the millage rates are used by the Township Treasurer to produce property tax bills for property within the Township. These taxes are crucial for funding our schools, libraries, police, fire, and park authorities.

The March Board of review which meets the second full week in March is the opportunity to exercise appeal rights

for residential property owners who would like to present their opinion of their property value once per year. Residential property owners must appeal first to the March Board of Review to protect their rights to further appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Your Assessment Change Notice will provide you with instructions and dates for the March Board of Review.

If you have any questions related to Property Assessments, Exemptions, or Property Transfers, Christina and Lisa would be happy to assist you (734) 242-8588 You can also make an appointment with the Deputy Assessor, Kathryn Wright, available in office on Wednesdays' and throughout the week via phone (907) 750-2012 or our Assessor, Edward K VanderVries, available via phone and scheduled appointments (269) 720-1928 or by email: evandervries@hotmail.com.



frenchtown center for active adults

by Paul Iacoangeli, Executive Director

Thankfully, winter is quickly coming to an end, and warm weather is right around the corner. According to the National Weather Service in Detroit, there were no clear days in January, seven partly sunny days, and 24 entirely cloudy days. The partly sunny days may have had only minutes of sunshine in each day. From what I understand, we have a total of 290 hours of sunshine possible in January. Since the information said minutes of sunshine each day, let's figure 59 minutes each of those days and if my math is correct, that is less than 3% of sunshine in January.



Well, at the time of writing this article it is the middle of February, and we have already had way more sunshine than we had all of January. Things are also brighter at the Center. Staff recently introduced a walk-fit exercise program that has attracted quite a few new folks. The bingo/exercise room can only support so many cardio drummers, so it became necessary to start an 8:00 class in addition to our 9:00 class.

In a recent report I had to prepare, I was amazed at the growth your Center has seen in 2023. With the addition last spring of pickleball, bocce ball, and chair yoga, combined with the other popular programs, Fun Fit in the morning, Cardio Drumming, Geri-fit, and Enhanced Exercise in the afternoon, there was a 240% increase in fitness activity. We also saw an increase in crafting, gaming, and recreation, along with a 30% increase in membership, which keeps staff busy. Our lunch program is also top-rated. Staff prepared 42% more lunches than in 2022. With the installation of our new walk-in Cooler/Freezer combination, we expect those numbers to continue to rise. If it hadn't been for the generosity of your Township board coming to our rescue, we would not have been able to use the ARPA funds from the County of Monroe.

There are some great *In the Know* sessions coming up, along with some nostalgic Monday movies, so go to our website, frenchtownsenior.com, for up-to-date information. In March, we began to offer fully clothed massages on Thursdays. A 20-minute massage done by a licensed massage therapist costs only \$30. If interested, call to make an appointment.

As the early spring like weather tease gives us a taste of what is right around the corner, and you start planning some well-deserved vacations, stop in and take a look at the travel racks. We have a lot of travel opportunities available. There is an assortment of one- and two-day trips. You can make plans to go on an 11-day overseas cruise or a day trip to the Firekeepers Casino. This year's Center signature trip, The Grand Hotel/Mackinac Island trip, is departing on September 22 and returning on the 25th. Staff is pushing hard, so the trip will probably fill quickly, given the early season departure. Enjoy your spring, and I hope to see you at your Center.



FRENCHTOWN TODAY

Published by Frenchtown Charter Township

Supervisor
Alan (Al)

VanWashenova

Clerk

Kyle Bryant

Treasurer

Julie Ellison

Trustees

Gary D. Klemz

Chris Collins

Matthew Rimel

Christiaan Carlton

NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE

Chris Collins, Editor

Gary D. Klemz

Matthew Rimel

designer:

spotteddogcreative.com

printer:

metzgers.com



frenchtown fire department



by Wendy Stevens, Fire Chief

Another year in the books and we are well into the next, Happy 2024! Along with the gift of a new year, we received our long-awaited new ambulances. I am hopeful you have had an opportunity to see them out on the road serving the needs of our community. If not, I've included a quick peek pic of Alpha 1 for your viewing enjoyment.

Your Fire Department ended the 2023 year on a high note, with the highest number of incident responses in a 12-month period, in the history of the department, 4,245 in total; a mixture of fires, medical emergencies, and hazardous situations. If you are interested in our activity, a monthly report has been added to the Fire tab on the Frenchtown Charter Township website. This displays the number and type of incident responses by the firefighters. The web address is frenchtownmi.gov/fire.



The Frenchtown Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is actively seeking volunteers. If your New Year's resolution involved assisting others and making a positive impact on your community, please consider applying. The members of CERT assist the fire department with community events such as the Independence Day Fire Works displays, traffic management at emergency scenes, and severe weather responses. CERT also works with residents on fire scenes providing reassurance, and with firefighters assisting with rehabilitation and hydration. Applications are available at Fire Station 1.

As spring is in full swing, I foresee yard cleanup and improvements on your to-do list; if you are looking for a way to accompany your improvements and assist the fire department at the same time; consider purchasing a reflective address sign from the Frenchtown Township Hall. These



signs are created at the fire station just for you. They assist us in locating your home in the event of an emergency. They are \$15.00 and made to order. They make great gifts too!



Another successful Fire Department Open House occurred in October, fire safety and motor vehicle crash demonstrations, face painting, a magician, our Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT), and Monroe Community Ambulance (MCA) were just few of the events and participants. Plans are already in the works for the 2024 Open House, we hope to see you there.

Some much-needed building maintenance was performed on our fire houses this past year; we repaired and replaced the roofs on Fire Station 1 and 2. Additionally, we replaced the 30+ year-old, unrepairable, doors on the fire engines and ambulance bays at Station 1, 2 and 3; using the capital improvement millage you graciously voted to renew in 2022. Your Frenchtown Fire Department is always working hard to keep our fire houses in proper order to best serve you. This includes maintaining our facilities inside and out.



As you beautify your yards this spring, please be mindful that open burning is only allowed from April 15 to April 30. Be courteous of your neighbors, follow the Township Ordinance #175, and be aware of the weather conditions and wind direction.





frenchtown water department

by Rich Weirich

We are excited to announce that Frenchtown has created a Department of Public Works (DPW). The Public Works Department will include the Water Treatment Plant, DPW services and Water Billing. Here are just a few things that you can expect the DPW to be providing.

Maintaining of all your recreation properties, Township owned properties, mowing of your local roadsides, and helping during Township emergencies just to name a few. This is a very exciting time as we strive to provide better services and beautification of our Township. Above is a photo of the machines you will see mowing your local road. Just a quick note, we are not responsible for the local roads or drainage, these issues/concerns will still be controlled by the Monroe County Road Commission and the Monroe County Drain Commissioner.



When you see these vehicles mowing along side the road, please use caution around them. Just because you can see

them, they might not be able to see you.

We are moving forward with our Residential Cross Connection requirements from EGLE. If you have a lawn sprinkler expect a letter from the Water Department with instructions on how to have your backflow preventor tested. EGLE requires that all municipal water systems institute this program. We are here to help with any questions you have and hopefully the letter you receive will answer a lot of them for you.

Please, if you are having any issues paying your water bills, give us a call. We offer flexible arrangements to help you stay on track. Just as a reminder, we

have our online payments system set up at frenchtown-mi.gov. Please make sure you only go to that website to make your payments! We have had customers make payments at other website, but we never received the payments. **Please only use our website.**

If you should have any questions for the Water Department, please feel free to call us at **(734) 289-1015**.

Treasurer's Office continued from page 3...

▶ Click on the **Services** tab at the top of the **BSA online** website.



▶ Click **Online Payments** and choose **Current Tax Payments** or **Utility Billing Payments**.

▶ Search for your bill by **name, address, or parcel number**. Please note when searching by address only enter the

street number as **street names** may appear differently in the program.

- ▶ Choose your property and click **Make a Payment**.
- ▶ Enter payment information and click **Continue**.
- ▶ Check the box to **Agree to Terms and Conditions**.
- ▶ Click **Submit Payment**.

Summer Tax Bills will be mailed the last week of June and will be payable beginning July 1st through September 14th without penalty or interest.



PUT MORE IN THE BIN!



**PLEASE VISIT
WWW.STEVENS DISPOSAL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RECYCLING!**

**PLEASE RINSE/CLEAN CONTAINERS BEFORE
PUTTING INTO RECYCLING BIN/TOTER CAN.**

Clerk's Office continued from page 3...

and ending the Sunday prior to the scheduled Election Day. Please note that Frenchtown's **early voting location** will always be located at the **Township Hall, 2744 Vivian Road, Monroe, MI 48162** and will be active from **8:30 am–4:30 pm**. The specific 2024 dates and hours for early voting and Election Day are listed to the right. In addition to the aforementioned changes there is another notable change regarding the absentee voting process; you now have the option to join the **Permanent Absentee Ballot List** which allows qualified voters to submit a single application to receive a ballot prior to each election. Absentee voters have always had the option to return their ballots through the Postal service, Township Dropbox, or directly to the Clerk's office. However, voters now have the option to bring their absentee ballot to the early voting site and process it directly into the early voting tabulator.

SPECIAL NOTE: For voters of **Precincts 1 and 5**, you should

have received a letter notifying you of the change but as a reminder, Precincts 1 and 5 **have moved from Grace Baptist Church to the St. Mary and St. Anthony Retreat and Conference Center** located at **8210 N Telegraph Road, Newport, MI 48166**.

As always, we are always available for questions or concerns regarding elections and proudly ensures Election security, integrity, and transparency in Frenchtown Township.

2024 AUGUST PRIMARY

Early Voting: July 27 – August 4, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
2744 Vivian Road, Monroe, MI 48162

Election Day: August 6th 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
at your normal Precinct.

2024 NOVEMBER GENERAL

Early Voting: October 26 – November 3, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
2744 Vivian Road, Monroe, MI 48162

Election Day: November 5th 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
at your normal Precinct.

municipal complex news

by Chris Collins

Last year, Frenchtown Charter Township began construction of a **25 Acre Municipal Complex** on Dixie Hwy near the Detroit Beach entrance. This exciting new development project includes a **Community Center**, a **Municipal Building** and a **new Sheriff's substation** to replace the existing 100-year-old building located near the corner of Nadeau/Dixie. The new substation will include **state-of-the-art equipment** and facilities to significantly improve the overall working conditions and capabilities for each of our Frenchtown contractual and county-funded deputies. Additionally, Sheriff Troy Goodnough has committed to designating this facility as the new, **District 1 Headquarters** and will be relocating an additional 8 county-funded deputies from the surrounding area to the new Frenchtown Township station.

Considering the age and increasingly declining condition of the current substation coupled with the Township having some of the highest volume for calls to service within Monroe County; the Township Board understood this project was a **necessary and vital infrastructure improvement**. Moreover, this new location allows for increased visibility and improved accessibility to not only Frenchtown residents but each of the adjacent communities which are likewise serviced by the county-funded deputies.

The Community Center is a **20,000 square foot** event location venue and will seat up to **580 people**. It contains a **commercial kitchen** that will provide catering opportunities to Frenchtown businesses or businesses owned by Frenchtown residents. In addition, there will be several glass and aluminum-style roll up doors along the perimeter of the building

allowing for mixed indoor and outdoor events. Of course, the hidden gem is the chance to host community-oriented events that will not only provide entertainment opportunities to the residents of Frenchtown, but will invite guests from outside of our Township to come enjoy our local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. The planned uses of the community center include but are not limited to: **farmers markets, concerts, festivals, car shows, conventions** and will also be available on select dates for **private events**.

The remainder of the property is slated to be developed into a park and the conceptual plans for this component are currently in the works thanks

in part to the continuing participation of Frenchtown residents. The funding for the entire project is **100% General Fund** sourced allowing the Township to complete the project without any additional costs to our tax-payers. Overall, the Township Board feels this project will be an invaluable tool to encourage and attract more economic development to the area while simultaneously supporting our existing local businesses.

The project is currently scheduled for completion by October. If you have any concerns, ideas, or questions you are encouraged to contact Township Clerk, Kyle Bryant at (734) 242-5800 or kyle@frenchtownmi.gov.





frenchtown recreation department

by Phil Coyle, Parks and Recreation Director

Spring is fast upon us, which means our parks will soon be filled with activities and residents getting outside to enjoy the sun. On **March 24th** from **1:00-2:30 pm**, we will be hosting our

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Kiwanis Park. It's a fun event in which kids will enjoy the day finding eggs, winning prizes and hanging out with the Easter Bunny. Great events like these would not be possible without the support from



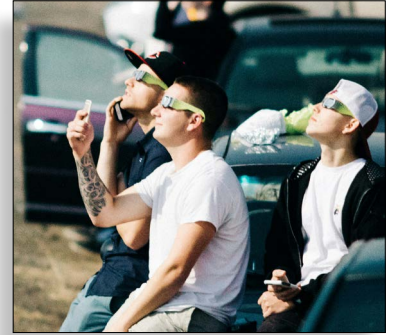
local small businesses and the Township's board. If your business/organization would like to participate in future events or donate items please feel free to contact us.

Our parks will soon be in the spring clean-up phase, preparing all the amenities to be enjoyed. In an effort to keep the parks beautiful and as a simple common courtesy to others, please be sure to keep your dog(s) on their leashes at all times and always remember to pick up after them whenever they do their business. There are waste stations at each park. Just as a reminder, that the Township has three parks: Kiwanis Park at 2775 Nadeau Rd, Township Park at 2744 Vivian Road and Park #3 located at 2277 Stewart Rd which have ball fields, tennis and pickleball courts, playscapes, pavilions, basketball courts, cornhole boards and volleyball courts.

If you are interested in renting the Hall at Kiwanis Park or a pavilion from either of the other two parks, please contact the Clerks office at (734) 242-5800 or stop by the Township Hall.

HISTORIC EVENT: For all the Astronomy enthusiast or even if you're not, a historic event will be taking place in

the sky on **April 8th**, a **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE** crossing the United States. The path of the eclipse is expected to cross at the Michigan-Ohio border at approximately **3:00 pm** which means Frenchtown is expected to see a near total eclipse. The next total solar eclipse to be seen from Michigan won't be until 2099!



We are always here to listen to your ideas and critiques to better improve the amenities we do have. We welcome you to attend our Recreation Commission meetings. Listed below are the dates for these meetings. To stay up to date on future events, follow us on our Facebook page at Frenchtown Township Parks & Recreation, the Township's website and the Township's newsletter. Feel free to call or email as well: (734) 243-1732 or (734) 430-2827, phil@frenchtownmi.gov.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- Community Easter Party
- Registration for Youth Baseball/Softball
- Bowling Lessons

MAY

- Kids' Day Camp Registration
- Tennis/Pickleball Lessons

JUNE – AUGUST

- Golf Lessons

RECREATIONS COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Senior Activity Center on Vivian Rd. next to the Township Hall at 6:00 pm.

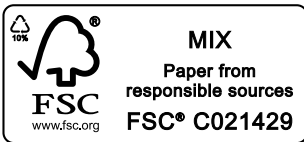
Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2744 VIVIAN ROAD
MONROE, MICHIGAN 48162
frenchtowntownship.org

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Lots of great things happening in Frenchtown today!



2024 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 Tuesday 8:00 a.m.
- 3rd Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
- 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

planning commission

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