

FRENCHTOWN

T O D A Y

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

SPRING / SUMMER 2021

VOLUME 24 — ISSUE 1

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Supervisor's Desk	1
Resort District Authority	3
Frenchtown Recreation	3
Treasurer's Office Update	4
Clerk's Office Update	4
Building Dept.	5
Newsletter Committee	5
Frenchtown Fire Dept.	6
Center for Active Adults	7
Library News	7
Meeting Schedule	8

POINTS OF CONTACT

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TWP.

(734) 242-3282

Assessing.....	Press 2
Clerk	Press 3
Building	Press 4
Supervisor	Press 5
Treasurer	Press 6
Water (Billing).....	Press 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 Alan (Al) VanWashenova, Supervisor



recycling update

Al VanWashenova, Supervisor, chairs the Advisory Recycling Committee. This committee will consist of residents of Frenchtown Charter Township. They will research a system for recycling in Frenchtown. The Advisory Recycling Committee's email address is:

recycle@frenchtowntownship.org

As this committee evolves, updates will be posted on the Township's website: www.frenchtowntownship.org.

trash service

Stevens Disposal is the refuse disposal company Frenchtown Charter Township has contracted. The new trash carts are the property of Stevens Disposal and are meant to stay with the property at which they were distributed and are not to be removed from the premises.

- You can use the old Republic carts which were purchased by the Township for the residents to use. Stevens will service all carts. If you have the old Republic carts that you do not want to use, please call my office at (734) 242-3282, and we will come out and pick up the old Republic carts.
Note: This summer, we will be rebranding the old "Republic" trash cans. For more information on how you can help contact (734) 242-3282 or check the website: <https://frenchtowntownship.org/>
- Remember to place the trash carts three (3) feet off the road and not on the paved shoulder. Where there is a white pavement marking, carts need to be placed three (3) feet in from the end of the driveway.
- Place the carts at least four feet from a mailbox, fence post or vehicle.
- To avoid having paper and other debris coming from the trash trucks, please remember to bag your loose trash items in trash bags before placing them in the trash carts.
- Prohibited items: Liquid filled containers of any kind, building/con-

...continued on page 2

Supervisor's Report continued...

struction material i.e., wood, brick, concrete, asphalt, rocks, automotive parts and tires, hazardous waste materials. Refrigeration units must have freon removed and tagged by a licensed technician.

- ▶ Please remove carts from the road's edge once they are emptied. This will help avoid possible theft, damage to the carts, and it will give the streets a clean appearance.

bulk items

If you have large items that do not fit in your container, Stevens needs 24 hours notice to schedule a bulk pickup.

You may contact my office (734) 242-3282, Department 5, or Stevens at 1 (800) 779-0344 to arrange for collection of bulk items.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION WILL BEGIN
April 1, 2021 — November 30, 2021.

Holiday Schedule for trash pickup will run one day late on these dates:
LABOR DAY – September 6
MEMORIAL DAY – May 31
THANKSGIVING – November 25

road information & projects

- ▶ This year's focus will be on maintenance of local roads and drainage.
- ▶ 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.

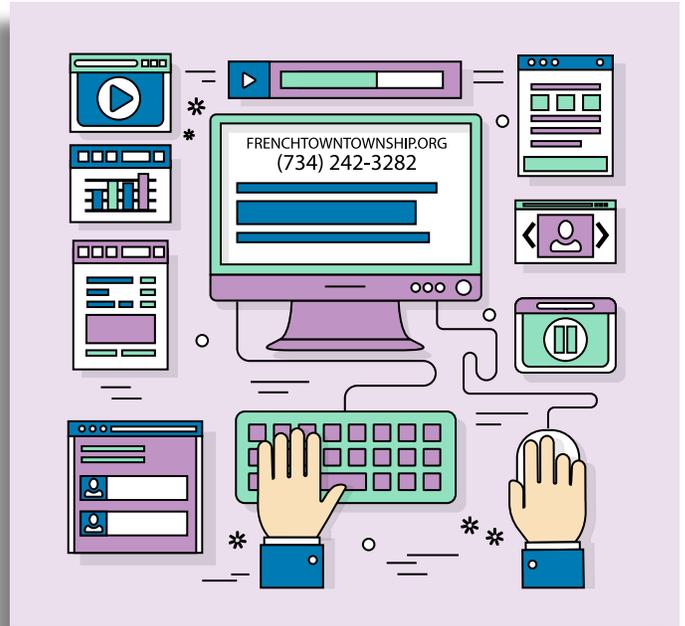
street light outages

Please call Rosemary, at (734) 242-3282, Dept. 5 to report a street light out:

- ▶ Pole number.
- ▶ Type of pole.
- ▶ Location (address or corner streets).
- ▶ Once reported, it takes seven to ten business days for DTE to service.

closing

We try very hard to follow up on any issues or complaints that are reported to the Township offices. The entire Township staff always has your best interests in mind and continues to work very hard to resolve issues and address your concerns.



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

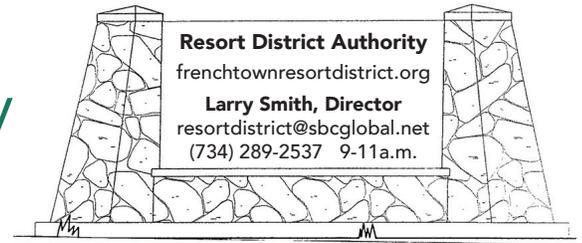
Published by Frenchtown Charter Township

<p>Supervisor Alan (Al) VanWashenova</p> <p>Clerk Kyle Bryant</p> <p>Treasurer Julie Ellison</p> <p>Trustees Gary D. Klemz Chris Collins Matthew Rimel Christiaan Carlton</p>	<p>NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE Chris Collins, Editor Gary D. Klemz Matthew Rimel</p> <hr/> <p>designer: spotteddogcreative.com</p> <p>printer: metzgers.com</p>
---	---



notes from the resort district authority

by Larry Smith, Director



I hope this article finds you healthy and coping well with the current social norms of distancing and wearing masks, etc. necessitated by the Coronavirus pandemic. We all look forward to the return of some normalcy. The RDA office is open while observing certain protocols to protect staff and visitors, alike.

Subsequent to the November elections, the Frenchtown Charter Township Board of Trustees appointed two new representatives to the RDA Board. At the January 13, 2021 meeting the RDA Board reorganized as follows:

Chairman: Molly Luempert-Coy (Industry Representative)

Vice Chairman: Gary Klemz (Township Representative)

Secretary: Don Rushlow (Resident Representative)

Treasurer: Brian Dotson (Resident Representative)

Member: Chris Collins (Township Representative)

Additionally, Repairing and Micro-Surfacing the road in accordance with the Pavement Asset Management Program, adopted by the board continues in 2021. The board

approved issuing a request for bids to do the 4.76 miles of roads within Stoney Pointe Beach. Currently, ~29.5 miles or 70% of the 42 miles in the district have been completed at a cost of approximately \$1.1 million. Upon completion of this contract ~34.25 miles or 82 % in total will have been completed. The roads that have received micro surfacing are holding up well and should serve our needs for many years to come with minimal repair costs.

The major problem facing the district continues to be the high level of Lake Erie. The lake rose from record low to record high levels in just six years. Record breaking high water levels characterized Lake Erie water levels in 2019. The lake level has been above its monthly long term average since June 2015, a period of 61 consecutive months. The US Army Corp of Engineers prediction for this summer is for Lake Erie to be 8 inches below the level experienced last year. This of course, is just a prediction. But, let's hope it's correct, if not even a bit under estimated.

Please stay safe, protecting yourself and others.

frenchtown recreation department

by Paul Coyle, Parks and Recreation Director

Hello 2021! Coming off a challenging year and still uncertain about our traditional Spring and Summer programs, we are staying optimistic that we'll be able to put something together along with some new mini events/programs.

This past October, we held our first annual Trunk or Treat, which was a success thanks to all of the local businesses that participated. If your business would like to join us next year feel free to reach out to us. Unfortunately, we were unable to host our annual Christmas party, but we're looking forward to our Easter Party later this spring (date to be determined).

During the previous fall months; we had the opportunity to renovate the community baseball field at the Stewart Rd Park in preparation for some of our youth baseball and softball games. We are also making improvements to

our sand volleyball courts located behind the township hall and are expected to be ready for play once the warm weather returns.

Until then, take advantage of our walking paths at Stewart Rd Park and Vivian Rd Park while there is no snow. Once the snow begins to fall, feel free to go sledding down our hills, do some snow shoeing, or maybe a little cross country skiing in the parks?

In the meantime, the best way to stay up to date on announcements from the Parks and Recreation Department is to follow us on our Facebook page at **Frenchtown Township Parks & Recreation** or at the Township website, **frenchtowntownship.org** under the recreation tab. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments **phil@frenchtownchartertpw.org** or **(734) 243-1732**. Stay Safe and Healthy!



treasurer's office update

by Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Hello from the Treasurer's Office! We have some exciting news...the ability to pay your water and tax bills online and over the phone are coming soon! Please pay close attention to your water bill which will have important information regarding this option. We will also post information on the Township Facebook page and our website.

water information

- Spring and Summer water/sewer utility bills will be due April 7th for sections 1 & 2, and April 21st for sections 3 & 4. There will also be a billing cycle in July. Section 1 & 2 due July 7th, and Section 3 & 4 due July 21st.
- Payments for Water Shut-off Notices – **ONLY** cash, money order or credit card will be accepted – **NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED**
- Please note there is a fee associated with credit/debit card payments. Also, the cardholder **MUST** be



clerk's office update

by Kyle Bryant, Clerk

Frenchtown Residents, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for choosing me to serve as your Clerk. I look forward to upholding the integrity, efficiency, and accessibility of the Clerk's office and our Township as a whole. Last year, was a turbulent one for us all but, we're eagerly looking forward to a brighter 2021.

I want to acknowledge the hard work, long hours and determined effort put in by all of our incredible Election workers, our Voter registration specialist, Mary Kittle and, of course, our Deputy Clerk, Jessica Burt. They were handed a new Clerk in the middle of a pandemic with four elections on the docket and they handled these unique and unprecedented challenges with great poise and efficiency. I am honored to be serving alongside these fine individuals.

present with identification for these transactions.

- Please call or visit our office if payment arrangements are needed. We are able to assist you but only before the water is shut off for nonpayment. If you should have any questions, please contact the **Utility Billing Specialist, Lori Caswell** at (734) 242-5902, extension 112.

important tax dates

Summer 2020 Tax Bills (and Tax Copies for escrow parcels) are scheduled to be mailed on June 30th, 2021. We will begin accepting payments on July 1st, 2021.

SUMMER TAX BILLS ARE DUE BY 4:30 pm on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021.

- Partial payments are accepted during the collection cycle.
- Interest will begin to accrue at 1% a month, or any fraction of a month beginning at the close of business on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 for any unpaid balance.
- Failure to receive a tax bill does not waive penalties or interest.

Please do not hesitate to call our office (734) 242-5902, Ext 6 with any questions regarding your tax or water bill. We would be happy to assist you!

I'd also like to thank the incredible voters in Frenchtown Township, we had a record turnout for our November 3rd General Election. I personally feel very proud to live in a community that cares so much and takes a vested interest in their local government.

Speaking of elections, mark your calendars for our next election on May 4th, 2021. For more information regarding elections, feel free to call (734) 242-5800 or email us at clerk@frenchtownchartertwp.org any time. If you're interested in working in future elections, have some basic computer skills and you enjoy working with the public; we'd love to have you join our all-star team! Applications are available in the Clerk's office at the Township Hall.

Kiwanis Hall reservations are almost available for 2021. These reservations are available to Frenchtown Residents first until February 15th, after that date reservations are open to all who wish to use our clean, air-conditioned building with a great view. We pride ourselves on great service and accessibility.

Together, we can create positive change while preserving our rich history and traditions. I encourage residents to reach out to me personally at our office line: (734) 242-5800 or via email at kyle@frenchtownchartertwp.org.



from the building department

by Joe Lehmann,
Building Official

The Building Department welcomes Spring and Summer clean-up!!! We would like to remind residents to contact the Frenchtown Charter Township Supervisor's Office at (734) 242-5904 in order to schedule any bulk item pick up (24 hour minimum notice please). Please contact Mr. Mike Langton, our Blight Inspector, if you have any blight concerns that we may assist in. We would like to also remind our residents that parking is not permitted on lawns or in the street right of way. If you have any questions concerning the off-street parking requirements, please refer to the Township Zoning Ordinance, Article 24.00. If you plan on expanding your driveway or installing a new one please stop in to the Building Department for a permit and we will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

In conjunction with Building Safety Month the Township has Free Permit week. During the week of May 3rd to 7th Township residents may receive free permits for any of the following projects. (Window and door replacement, roofing, siding, and driveways). Please stop by to take advantage of this opportunity to beautify your residence.

Permit applications and Township Zoning Ordinances are available on our website frenchtowntownship.org. Permit submissions may be filed in person, by mail or through our drop box located on the outside of the Township entrance. As a reminder, if you are planning on building or altering any structure(s) within Frenchtown, most projects require a permit. If you're unsure, please call us and we will be happy to assist you.

Additionally, we are currently enforcing the 2015 Michigan Building Codes, available for purchase at:

shop.iccsafe.org/michigan-discounts?ref=MI.

Please remember to call at least 24 hours before all inspections because our inspectors are extremely busy and their schedules are usually filled the day prior. Commercial businesses please contact our offices regarding Certificate of Occupancy requirements and any other documents needed prior to occupying or utilizing an existing building. We are here to assist potential business owners in this process for the most successful outcomes.

As always, the Building Department is eager to help both residents and commercial businesses alike 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 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.

Meet Your New Newsletter Committee

Your newly elected Trustees are looking forward on expanding on the work done with *Frenchtown Today* previously and engaging with current and future Frenchtown residents. Please feel free to contact them with your thoughts or suggestions. Our newsletter is here to keep you informed and we're excited to build collaborative community efforts.



Chris Collins, Editor
chris@frenchtownchartertp.org



Gary Klemz
garyk@frenchtownchartertp.org



Matthew Rimmel
mattr@frenchtownchartertp.org

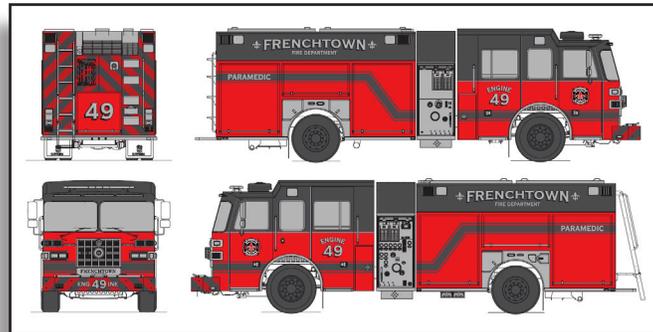


Christiaan Carleton
christiaan@frenchtownchartertp.org



frenchtown fire department

by Wendy Stevens, Fire Chief



Happy Everything New!

New Year, New Month,
New Season, New Fire Engines.

We have transitioned into 2021 with much enthusiasm, many looked forward to leaving 2020 in the past. It was quite a year, we learned new terms such as “social distancing” “masking” and “quarantine”, we voted in a presidential election, our children transitioned into virtual learning, we all learned to adapt to lots of changes.

Here at the FD, we have adapted as well, we have taken disinfection to a whole new level, we wear masks as well as our gloves on every medical call for service, we have not hosted or participated in any of our usual events, similar to you. We canceled our Annual Open House; we have not visited any of your students for fire prevention education and let me say:

WE MISS YOU!

Your Firefighters were busier than ever, seriously, the firefighter paramedics assisted residents and visitors of Frenchtown Township 3184 times which is 267 more incidents than the previous year up a total of 9.16%. Serving you is what we do and we are proud of the number of opportunities we were presented to serve all of your needs.

The new Rescue Engines are on the horizon, the build process is reaching completion and we are anxiously awaiting their arrival. We anticipate taking delivery of them in early summer. Fingers crossed we will be able to host a reveal to display your Rescue Engines in person. Station 1 and Station 2 will each house a new truck.

This is my first opportunity to thank you for your overwhelming “yes” votes. Let me say or rather shout:

THANK YOU!

You made these Rescue Engines a reality for Frenchtown Township. Each one of you are part owner in these

much-needed pieces of apparatus. We will operate them with gratitude and pride. Be sure to wave or give a thumbs up when you see them out an about in the Township.

I would also like to remind you of our open burning dates. The burning season begins April 15 and ends on April 30, with no permit required. The Frenchtown Township ordinance allows for the burning of yard waste such as tree limbs, leaves and brush, however burning of building materials, tires, railroad ties, etc., is strictly prohibited. The ordinance #175 is available on the Frenchtown Township website:

<https://frenchtowntownship.org/building/general-ordinances>

Please be courteous of your neighbors.

Last but certainly not least, the Frenchtown Fire Department is actively seeking to increase our ranks both full-time and paid-on-call, if you are interested in becoming a member of your Fire Department, applications are available on the Frenchtown Township website under the Fire Department tab. The applications are unique to the two positions, full-time or paid-on-call firefighter, be mindful to select appropriately.

Lastly, please be reminded that open burning is only allowed from April 15 to April 30. Be courteous of your neighbors, follow the Township Ordinance and be careful. Be aware of the weather conditions and wind direction before you burn. Keep safety a priority, and change those smoke detector batteries when you move your clocks forward. Wear your sunscreen, wear a personal protective device on watercraft and use your grills and smokers 10 feet from a structure.

Prevention is the best defense.

frenchtown center for active adults

by Paul Iacoangeli, Executive Director

Open, Close, Open, Close. It has been a revolving door lately in recent months here at the Center. As I write, we are open and offering limited activities, group exercise classes are prohibited, and dine in services are restricted, but I expect those to return by February. Of course, I say this with my fingers crossed.

We all understand the withdrawal our Bridge, Euchre, and Hand and Foot players have been experiencing and will continue to work with the Health Department to coordinate their return as soon as possible. We anticipate our Cardio Drumming class will start in March, and to any pool players, we have four tables available when the respective leagues do not occupy them.

Because most of our fundraising incorporates the facility, bingo, quarter mania, dinner shows, rummage sales, various member events, and our travel program, our revenue stream, like our other partners in the community, has suffered. We're looking forward to brighter days, and in anticipation of things improving; we have scheduled

the 2021 Golf Outing for August 7th at the Sandy Creek Golf Course, so please mark this on your calendar.

As the vaccine starts to roll out, things will undoubtedly get better. We can only hope the County and the State are in a position where closures become a thing of the past. With funding from the CARES Act and the State of Michigan, we have implemented a variety of different enhancements to the facility to help provide a safer environment during you visit. Including many "touchless" fixtures and several sanitizing stations located throughout the facility. We are also fortunate that the facility is well suited for social distancing, and we will continue to comply with all CDC and Health department recommendations regarding their preventative measures. As an additional precautionary measure for contact tracing, everyone is required to use our kiosk registration system.

Our membership fee remains at \$20.00 a year. So please visit our website at www.frenchtownsenior.com for additional information. We hope to see folks soon.

library news

by Jane Steed, Community Librarian

On behalf of the staff of the three libraries in Frenchtown Township, I would like to congratulate our new Township Officials and Trustees on their recent elections. We are looking forward to working with you. We are so fortunate to have in Frenchtown Township three lovely and well maintained library facilities. Our hope is that we can continue giving our library patrons consistent, excellent service in each of our branches.

As with so many other facilities, we have had to make changes in our services as a result of the Covid-19 virus. At this time the library system is doing "Curb Side" only service for our patrons. You might wonder how this is possible. Well, it's not too hard and it seems to work pretty well. Just call any branch of the Monroe County Library System and order a book, movie, or an audio recording. The item(s) will be sent to your



local branch and we will notify you when the item(s) is in. Next, just drive-up curbside at your local library and give us a call. We will bring the item(s) out to you. You can also order materials on line or call your library with reference questions about homework help, book suggestions or even a recipe for "deep dish pizza."

Please check our website at monroe.lib.mi.us for hours of service and more library details and be sure to check out the **Events Calendar** on our home page. Even though we are not open to the public there are plenty of events online to check out. Including, online story times for children and some online book clubs as well. Some branches are even offering "Grab and Go" bags containing puzzles, or word games, or crafts for adults or children. Who knows what ideas the crafty ones at the library will come up with next?

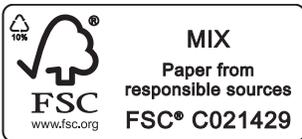
FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2744 VIVIAN ROAD
MONROE, MICHIGAN 48162

www.frenchtowntownship.org

SPRING / SUMMER 2021, VOL. 24, ISSUE 1

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOLEDO, OH
PERMIT NO. 242



2021 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 Tuesday2:00 p.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.