

FRENCHTOWN T O D A Y

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

SPRING / SUMMER 2020

VOLUME 23 — ISSUE 1

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Supervisor's Desk.....	1
Frenchtown Recreation.....	3
Resort District Authority.....	3
Clerk's Office Update.....	4
Treasurer's Office Update.....	4
Building Dept.....	5
Ctr. for Active Adults.....	5
Frenchtown Fire Dept.....	6
Library News.....	7
Meeting Schedule.....	8
US Census Flyers.....	Insert
2019 Water Quality Report..	Insert

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 James McDevitt, Supervisor



reflection

Frenchtown Charter Township is ready to welcome SPRING! It is almost time to pull out the garden tools, but not before finishing up a few wintertime chores. As the winter season fades and milder temperatures become the norm, we get to experience one of the great perks of living in Michigan...the change of seasons!

The Township is pleased to announce Meagan Russell has been hired as head of our Human Resources. Outside of work, Meagan is an avid reader and enjoys going to hockey games with her husband and son.

2020 United States Census

This Spring the 2020 United States Census will begin. We want all Frenchtown Charter Township residents to be counted. Remember, this US Census Count will help shape our future for our country which includes our township, Frenchtown Charter Township. **Included in this newsletter are two US Census flyers. Please take the time to read this information.**

recycling update

Trustee Al VanWashenova is chairing a Recycling Advisory Committee. This committee will consist of residents of Frenchtown who will research a system for recycling in Frenchtown. The Recycling Advisory Committee's email address is: recycle@frenchtowntownship.org. As this committee evolves, updates will be posted on the Township's website.

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.

▶ The old Republic carts were purchased by Frenchtown and belong to

continued on page 2

Supervisor's Report continued...

all of us. Please help keep them in Frenchtown for the exclusive use of our residents. Stevens will service all carts. Remember, these are the property of the Township and should remain in the Township. If you have old Republic carts that you no longer need, please call my office at (734) 242-3282; we will come and pick up.

- ▶ 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/construction material, e.g., 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 800-779-0344 to arrange for collection of bulk items.

Yard waste collection begins
April 1, 2020 - November 30, 2020.

Holiday Trash pickups: If your trash pickup day is a holiday or comes after a holiday, your trash will be picked up a day late that week.

NEW YEAR – January 1
MEMORIAL DAY – May 25
INDEPENDENCE DAY – July 4
LABOR DAY – September 7
THANKSGIVING – November 26
CHRISTMAS – December 25

road projects

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

information on private roads

- ▶ 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 and give:

- ▶ Pole number
- ▶ Type of pole, wood, aluminum?
- ▶ Location (address or corner streets)
- ▶ Once reported, allow 7 to 10 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. We wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Spring and Summer.

FRENCHTOWN TODAY

PUBLISHED BY
Frenchtown
Charter Township

Supervisor
James McDevitt

Clerk

Mark J. Baker

Treasurer

Julie Ellison

Trustees

Hedwig Kaufman

Jack Lindquist

Alan VanWashenova

Kraig A. Yoas

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Kraig A. Yoas, Editor

Hedwig Kaufman

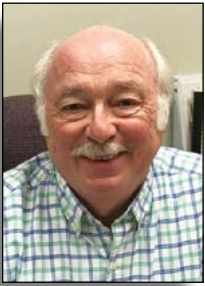
Jack Lindquist

designer:

spotteddogcreative.com

printer:

metzgers.com



notes from the resort district authority

by Larry Smith, Director



The RDA lost a good friend with the sudden unexpected passing of Joseph Congiolo. Joe faithfully served the Board as Secretary during his term. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. He will be greatly missed.

The major problem facing the district continues to be the high level of Lake Erie. The lake was at 100 year highs from May to September this past year and Lake Erie started 2020 higher than it started 2019. While we don't know how high it will rise and what direction the wind will blow, residents should make advance preparations. Sand bags (bags only) are available to residents at the RDA office.

Due to these recent record high Lake Erie levels and in anticipation of the RDA's next seawall project the board deemed it prudent to reassess our current design philosophy, and possibly refine both the design and construction of future walls if appropriate. Once this study is completed a recommendation on the next specific Seawall Rehabilitation Project will be proposed pending available resources.

The roads in Detroit Beach are identified in the Pavement Asset Management Plan to be next for resurfacing and therefore have been proposed as the RDA 2020 Micro-surfacing and Pavement Repair Project. The RDA Board authorized a request for bids for the next microsurfacing project.

frenchtown recreation department

After serving the township for many years, Larry Chinavare has retired. Frenchtown Township thanks Larry for his many years of being the Director of our Recreation Department. Anyone considering applying for the position as Director may call Jim McDevitt at (734) 242-3282.

COMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Easter Party

The Easter Party will be Saturday, April 4, 2020 at Kiwanis Park on Nadeau Road from Noon until 1:30 PM. All Township residents are welcome to attend.

Any businesses interested in donating to our annual parties can contact the Supervisor's Office at (734) 242-3282.

Bocce Ball Court

The Bocce Ball Court behind the Frenchtown Recreation Center (Senior Center) is re-surfaced and ready for play. A set of Bocce Balls is in a milk crate by the court for everyone to use. Please put the balls in the crate after use.

Tennis Courts

The Tennis Court behind the Township Hall on Vivian



Road has lines painted for Pickle Ball for those interested in playing. Please limit your playing time to one hour if people are waiting.

Walking Paths

The Walking Path behind Frenchtown Recreation Center on Vivian Road has been re-surfaced and looks great. Your comments and concerns are always welcome.



treasurer's office update

by Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Hello from the Treasurer's Office.

Like you, everyone in the Treasurer's Office is ready to welcome sunny days of Spring and the warmer days of Summer. We hope all residents are getting used to the full-page water bill that we began mailing last June. Our office handles the payment of your taxes and water bills. This office also collects fees for Recreational activities and various permit fees from the Building Department.

water department information

- Spring and Summer water/sewer utility bills will be due April 8th for sections 1 & 2, and April 22nd for sections 3 & 4. There will also be a billing cycle in July. Section 1 & 2 due July 8th, and Section 3 & 4 due July 22nd.
- 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



clerk's office update

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

Hi Friends! By the time you read this, we will be well into booking the Air Conditioned **Kiwanis Park Hall** and our **Park Pavilions** for year 2020. These reservations are available to Frenchtown Residents only till **February 15th**. After that date reservations can also be made by the general public.

Did someone say Elections??? Frenchtown will have four of them this year. We can always stand to add to our pool of Precinct Inspectors. So, if you have some basic com-

puter skills, and enjoy working with the public, give the Clerk's Office a call at (734) 242-5800 ext. 3.

- card payments. Also, the cardholder **MUST** be 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.

important tax dates

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

SUMMER TAX BILLS ARE DUE BY 4:30 pm on Monday, September 14th, 2020.

- Partial payments are accepted during the collection cycle.
- Current year winter taxes paid from February 15 through February 28 must include a 3% penalty.
- Failure to receive a tax bill does not waive penalties or interest
- Read more about Interest and Penalties at: <https://frenchtowntownship.org/treasurer/how-to-make-a-tax-payment/>

Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions regarding your tax bill or water bill. We will be happy to assist you.

UnitedStatesCensus2020
Be sure Frenchtown gets its fair share — make sure you're counted! Check out the flyers in this newsletter and our website for more.

puter skills, and enjoy working with the public, give the Clerk's Office a call at (734) 242-5800 ext. 3.

Also, as you read this, I will have resigned my post here as your Township Clerk, and an interim will be appointed to serve till High Noon on 11/20/2020. The little kid who grew up across the street from a Voting Precinct has enjoyed the daylights out of serving you these last 11+ years. To all who have supported me in the past, my heartfelt Thanks! To all of you, now's your chance to plop down \$100 or round up a few signatures on a petition and get your name on the ballot for the August Primary Election. The deadline for that is April 21st at 4pm. Thank You and God Speed!



from the building department

by Joe Lehmann,
Building Official

The Building Department welcomes Chris Collins as our new Blight/Ordinance Enforcement officer. Chris would like to remind everyone 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).

If you are planning on building or altering any structure in Frenchtown, please remember that most projects require a permit; call us and we will be glad to tell you if your project requires a permit. We are currently enforcing the 2015 Michigan Building Codes. Code books are available for purchase at:

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

Remember to call at least 24 hours before all inspections because our inspectors are extremely busy and their schedules are usually full the day prior.

In conjunction with Building Safety Month the Township has Free Permit week. The week of May 4th to 8th

Township residents will receive free permits for the following projects: window and door replacement, roofing, siding, and driveways. Please come in and take advantage of this opportunity to beautify your residence. For your convenience, permit application forms and the Township Zoning Ordinance are available on our website.

As another way to clean up and improve our community we would like to inform 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 by at the Building Department for a permit and we will be glad to answer any questions you may have. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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

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

frenchtown center for active adults

by Paul Iacoangeli, Director

We are in the midst of our annual membership drive. Dues for an entire year remain a bargain at \$20.00. As an example, let's say you come to play bingo every Friday. Play is relatively inexpensive; you visit with friends, we provide coffee, tea and the kitchen staff prepares a snack for intermission. I have sampled a few and they are outstanding. All of this you get for a measly forty cents (40¢) per Friday. You can't go to a fast food place and get a senior cup of coffee for 40¢. Besides, it is a small price to pay for the other amenities: free birthday lunch – \$3, event discounts – \$2 or more, newsletter, access to exercise equipment, ping pong and pool tables, plus more. Please stop in for a tour. Like many, you will be surprised by what we offer. Give us a call for more details at (734) 243-6210.

Additionally, we have a beloved group of ladies, who refer to themselves as the "Happy Hookers," who visit us every Wednesday at 1:00 pm. Throughout the year, these

"Hookers" spend hours knitting or crocheting hats, gloves, and scarves. In November, their items are displayed on the giving trees in our lobby. Each December, the ladies deliver their creations to the homeless, veterans, children, and women's shelters. While some of the yarn they use is donated, the demand for these items has outpaced the supply of donated materials. You have a chance to win a one-of-a-kind creation. To support their cause, we will have raffle tickets available, for not one, but two chances to win an Afghan or a Pillow: \$1.00 per ticket or 6 for \$5.00. This is your chance to stop, grab some tickets, and support this worthwhile cause.

Don't forget, the ladies are always looking to expand the group so if you like to chat, enjoy good food, and great company, they meet every Wednesday at 1:00 pm at the Center. Oh, I almost forgot while it is helpful if you like to knit or crochet it helps, or if you want to learn to be a "Hooker," this is the place.



frenchtown fire department

by Wendy Stevens, Fire Chief



CONGRATULATIONS Frenchtown Residents! Your Frenchtown Fire Department is now licensed to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) on all medical emergencies. What this means to you personally is that in the unfortunate event of a life-threatening emergency, the Frenchtown Fire Department will arrive at your home, business or school, with abilities comparable to a hospital emergency room. We now are licensed to start IVs, administer lifesaving medications, provide cardiac monitoring by way of reading heart rhythms and applying electricity as a means for pacing (think pacemaker), converting non-productive rhythms, and shocking a heart into a productive rhythm, insertion of advance airways for non-breathing patients, and so much more.

The ability to provide ALS services has been a long time in the making. A committee of firefighter paramedics headed by Josh Volker and Mike Guyor was tasked with the responsibility of moving us forward in our service to the community. They secured equipment such as ECG Monitors, advanced airway equipment, and medication drug boxes. They trained to become Paramedic Instructor Coordinators to provide continuing education to our other firefighter paramedics. Additionally, they brought in outside instructors, such as doctors, pharmacists and specialty providers, to refresh our firefighter paramedics and prepare each of them for the transition from Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support.

Collectively the Frenchtown Charter Township Board, Fire Department Administration and Firefighter Paramedics worked together to bring this lifesaving service to you. Transportation to the hospital will continue to be provided by Monroe Community Ambulance. Our paramedics may ride along to the hospital with patients as needed.

What's on the horizon, you ask? Fire Engines, to be more specific, Rescue Pumper. Our two oldest pumpers are 1989 and 1990 models. Every year the Department tests our fire hose, ground ladders, aerial ladders, and fire engines. We put our fire trucks through two very comprehensive tests: Department of Transportation testing, and fire pump testing. Certifications were performed by independent third-party organizations. This year we were met with the unfortunate news that our 1990 Spartan fire truck failed its pump test; estimates for repair costs are approximately \$20,000.00, more than the value of this fire truck.

Our current Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of Class 05/5X requires us to have two front line pumpers (fire trucks) and two reserve pumpers. While we currently meet this total number, the 1989 and 1990 engines are well beyond their service life. (ISO is an independent company that serves home owner and business insurance companies by providing information about risk: the lower the rating, the better. There is a direct tie between insurance rates and the ISO rating of our apparatus fleet.) The age and failure of these engines reaches further than just our ability to meet your needs, it can also affect our ISO ratings.

Early in 2019, a committee led by FF Neil Hawley began researching a way to upgrade our aging fleet. After much careful consideration, the committee set its sights on designing one apparatus that could be designed to provide Advanced Life Support (Rescue) and also be fire engines (Pumpers), essentially, a combination ambulance and fire engine: a Rescue Pumper. After being presented with this information, the Township Board decided to ask the voters to replace the 1989 and 1990 pumpers with two new Rescue Pumpers.

If your curiosity is piqued as to why we would like to purchase two Rescue Pumpers at the same time, along with need, it boils down to cost savings. The manufacturer we are working with will hold our price at the 2019 figure, which is 3% lower than the 2020 price, about \$35,000 less than today's price for the two.

What does all of this jargon mean to you personally? On May 5th, you will be asked to decide on TWO millage requests for our Fire Department: the first you are already familiar with, the RENEWAL of the 2 mills for operating expenses for five years. The second millage request is for 1 mill for only ONE year, for the exclusive purpose of funding the purchase and equipping of two new Rescue Pumpers. If approved, these new Rescue Pumpers will assist in maintaining our recently lowered ISO rating and allow us to safely and efficiently respond to our nearly 3000 calls per year.

The requested millage for the Rescue Pumper is for 1 mill for ONLY ONE YEAR, and will generate estimated revenue of \$1,203,259.00. Two Rescue Pumpers have been estimated to cost \$1,187,000.00, with the additional monies used to purchase the necessary tools and equipment exclusively for these two rescue pumpers. To calculate your additional cost for funding new Rescue Pumpers, simply multiply the

Fire Chief's Report continued...

"Taxable Value" figure on your tax bill by 0.001. The decision is up to you.

I apologize for inundating you with information. My goal with this newsletter was to educate you and prepare you to be able to make an informed decision in the upcoming May 5, 2020 election as to the two Fire Department Ballot Proposals. I am available if you have additional questions or need more information.

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.



HELP WANTED

ELECTION INSPECTORS

A Unique Opportunity to Serve Your Community! Training Provided (PAID).
2 - 6 days per year
\$17.10 per hour — Inspectors
\$18.10 per hour — Chairpersons

QUALIFICATIONS

Registered voter in the State of Michigan
Computer skills helpful
Clerical ability to perform the duties

FORMS NEEDED to APPLY:

Election Inspector Application

Application are always accepted at the Clerk's Office, 2744 Vivian Road
For more information, call (734) 242-5800

library news

by Jane Steed, Community Librarian

It is a cold day today but your friends at the library are planning and preparing for spring and summer with programs, events, Mother's Day celebrations, craft projects, movies and special activities for those beautiful days ahead of us.

As always, Book Clubs continue through the spring and summer at your three Frenchtown libraries. An Afternoon Read takes place on the 4th Monday of each month at our Vivian Branch at 3:00 pm. Our Life is a Mystery book club meets on the 1st Wednesday evening of each month at our Blue Bush branch at 6:30 pm and our Classic book club which meets on the last Monday of every other month. At our Frenchtown Dixie branch you can attend our cozy book club on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm, or our Soup for the Soul book club on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm.



In March, plan on attending a monthly "Game Day" on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm at our Blue Bush branch. At 6:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month "Sit, chat, finish that" gives you an opportunity to finish up some of those projects you've been trying to complete. Be sure to mark for your calendars for Saturday, March 21st for

our SPRING FLING with books, crafts, games and more!!! At our Vivian library join the staff on the 1st Wednesday of the month for "Puzzle in a Day." Take part in the challenge of doing a whole puzzle in one day. Kids, be sure to stop in on the 1st Monday of the month for "Crafternoons" at 3:30 pm. Create a fun and fabulous project after school. For the little ones there's story time each Thursday morning at 10:00 am. Mark your calendars for Monday, May 4th for a special "Crafternoon" when Mother's Day crafts will be created just for the special ladies in your life. And on June 1st we will be working on something special for Dads.

When June finally gets here it will be time once again for our Summer Reading Program. The theme is "Imagine Your Story." Children are invited to read, imagine, attend programs, have fun, be creative and improve their reading skills and begin to "Imagine Their Stories."

Be sure to stop in at your local library for more information and just say "Hi." Check out what's happening, check out a book or a movie, tell us about a book you've read or just come in for a visit. Remember winter is still here, but spring can't be far away. See you soon.

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2744 VIVIAN ROAD
MONROE, MICHIGAN 48162

www.frenchtowntownship.org

SPRING / SUMMER 2020, VOL. 23, ISSUE 1

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



2020 township meetings schedule



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

township board

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

planning commission

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

zoning board of appeals

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

recreation commission

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

resort district authority

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