

# FRENCHTOWN T O D A Y

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

VOLUME 22 — ISSUE 2

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## POINTS OF CONTACT

### FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TWP.

**(734) 242-3282**

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

Summer finally did show up in Frenchtown Charter Township and now we are welcoming the fall season with winter following close behind. Please remember with the start of fall come school openings...drive carefully and keep an eye out for the school buses and our Township's greatest resource, our kids.

## trash service

As the leaves begin to show their spectacular colors, they also begin dropping from the trees. Here are a few reminders regarding curbside collection of yard waste.

- Yard waste/leaf containers must have a capacity between 20 and 35 gallons, not weighing more than 50 pounds when filled. Marked: YARD WASTE.
- 30 gallon paper yard waste bags can be used, making sure not to exceed 50 pounds.
- Plastic bags will not be picked up.
- Limbs should be no longer than four (4) feet long, no more than 2" in diameter and bundled, not to exceed 50 pounds.

**Yard waste collection will end Friday, November 29, 2019.**

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

**If you have an extra trash carts, please call my office at 734-242-3282, and we will come out and pick them up.**

Please 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.

*continued on page 2*

Supervisor's Report continued...

- ▶ Trash carts are meant to stay with the property at which they are distributed and not to be removed from the premises.
- ▶ Once your trash carts have been emptied, please return the carts back to your house. This will help avoid possible theft and damage to the carts.
- ▶ Please do not mix compost with your trash or recycling. If a driver notices compost in either cart, it will be tagged and not collected. Always remember to leave at least 4 feet between bins for ease in servicing.

▶ ONLY place these items in the recycling carts: flattened cardboard, paper, clean metal cans, clean plastic bottles and jugs.

**NO PLASTIC BAGS  
NO DIRTY PIZZA  
BOXES**

Just a reminder: When you have large items that do not fit in your cart, you must call Republic Waste or the Township to request a special bulk item pick-up.

**A 24-hour notice is required prior to your normally scheduled trash day.**

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

**road projects**

- ▶ Completion of LaSalle Road from M24 to Reinhardt.
- ▶ Fall completion of LaSalle Road from M-125 to M24.

**storm drains**

Don't forget to remove leaves from storm drains while raking leaves from your lawns. Storm drains play an important role by removing water from roadways and properties.

**blight**

Please note that unlicensed and wrecked vehicles in the Township are considered blight. A phone call to a local salvage yard could result in some ready cash and help rid the Township of unsightly blight.

**closing**

Your Frenchtown Charter Township Staff try very hard to follow up on all issues or complaints reported to us. However, sometimes investigating these issues requires extra time. Please bear with us when these delays occur. We certainly have your best interests in mind and will work very hard to resolve the issues as quickly as possible.

We wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Michigan Fall and Winter.

**frenchtown center for active adults**

by Paul Iaoangeli, Director

Changes! Mary Ann Mack, after 21 years, has retired as the program director of the Dementia Adult Day Service program. Heather Reid has taken over those responsibilities. We recently upgraded our phones and now provide a separate voicemail for staff or program. Please remember if you call the kitchen (#6) and leave a message that you plan on joining us for breakfast or lunch we need the following information: **YOUR NAME, DAY OF THE WEEK** and the **DATE OF THE MONTH**. This should minimize confusion. We freshened our website:

[www.frenchtownsenior.com](http://www.frenchtownsenior.com)

Thanks to the Commission on Aging we have some modern Bingo equipment, so please come and join us on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. for a good game of bingo. We now offer ping pong and cardio drumming at the Center: Ping Pong from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Cardio Drumming begins at 2:00 p.m., both on Monday.

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**FRENCHTOWN TODAY**

**PUBLISHED BY**  
Frenchtown Charter Township

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**printer:**  
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*Frenchtown Active Adults Report continued...*

Our next Rummage Sale is October 8, 9, and 10. Keep us in mind for those unsold garage or yard sale items. Why pack and store them when you can donate them to a good cause? We are currently accepting household items, clothing, small appliances, laptops, tablets – almost nothing is turned away. We cannot accept large TV's or large appliances. We already have a few tools and antiques and are looking for more. Help us if you can.

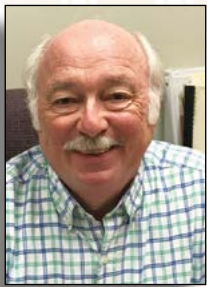
On Sunday, October 27th, we will have a Spaghetti Dinner/ Show, featuring Michael Carluccio. Mike performed at our volunteer appreciation dinner and was very well received. Tickets purchased in advance cost \$10.00; purchases made the day of the event cost \$15.00.

## bicycling on the back roads

Many of our back roads are ideal for bicycling with so little traffic that cyclists can ride two abreast and chat. Highway noise, wind, quiet engines...we don't hear these until a vehicle is close behind.



We don't want to be road hogs, so give your horn a couple of quick beeps when you're about 300 – 400 feet behind us. If you're driving 35 mph, you travel 51 feet per second, 45 mph = 66 fps. So please give us plenty of gentle warning because it takes a few seconds to react and move over.



## notes from the resort district authority

by Larry Smith, Director

Residents overwhelmingly renewed the RDA in the May elections with 89.2% voting for renewal (900 yes/109 no). 1009 votes were cast out of the 4631 eligible voters for a turnout of 21.8%, which is a good response from the community. Passage allows the RDA to continue to exist until the end of 2030 providing services to the district, and allow planning for the future, especially capital expenditure projects, but also providing funding for general maintenance of roads, storm sewers, pumping stations, snow removal assistance, tree removal, etc.

The district currently has two major capital expenditure programs: the Pavement Asset Management Program and the Seawall Rehabilitation Program. The Pavement Asset Management Program has the goal of providing a surface treatment to all the district roads, primarily consisting of micro-surfacing, which is an emulsion and aggregate based product used to seal voids, reduce pavement oxidation, provide an improved driving surface, and generally add life to the existing pavement. Woodland Beach was completed this summer. This was the fourth micro-surfacing project. To date 18 miles, or 42.8%, of the 42 miles in the district have been completed at a cost of approximately \$700,000. The second project is the Seawall Rehabilitation Program. Four projects have been completed to date, per the master plan, at a cost of over \$15 million. Voter renewal allows the RDA to continue these projects as financial



resources permit.

The major problem facing the district is the high water level of Lake Erie. The lake set a record 100 year high this summer causing previously unobserved shore line distress due to elevated levels and wave action. Legacy walls are deteriorating and shore line erosion is increasing at an accelerating rate. The new RDA constructed steel piling and precast concrete walls are structurally sound, however, some minor issues have recently been identified due to the high water, which the RDA is investigating.

Additionally, Monroe County petitioned the State of Michigan for help due to these historic high Lake Erie water levels. This petition was approved. As a result the United States Army Corp. of Engineers will assist shoreline communities including the RDA and offer recommendations and assist with studies, but unfortunately this work will not include any funding for construction.

Lakeshore residents are reminded to keep your walls in good repair and all residents to keep the storm water drains clean to allow maximum efficiency of water removal. Sand bags are available at the RDA office for your use. In addition, the RDA is coordinating with the Drain Commissioner for additional pumping if required during high water events.





## clerk's office update

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

Hi Friends!

This edition of the Township Newsletter should be arriving during the last of "The Dog Days of Summer"... I've never understood that phrase. I'm thinking that dogs don't care much for heat and humidity any more that we do. Those warmer days this summer without the humidity were really enjoyable. There are still lots of great days to enjoy Frenchtown's parks before it gets cold. Park 3 is located at the corner of Stewart Road and Blue Bush Road, next to the library and fire station.

There is also a nice park behind the Township Hall (with a great sledding hill) here on Vivian Road. Kiwanis Park and Hall on Nadeau Road at Fix Road is on the banks of Stoney Creek. You can rent the Kiwanis Park Hall (now air conditioned), for \$325, \$100 of that is refundable, if the hall is left in clean and orderly condition. You can also reserve one of the pavilions at the other two parks for just \$25.00. Stop by or call us here at the Clerk's office for those reservations (734-242-5800). Reservations by township residents for Kiwanis Park Hall in 2020 begin at 9 a.m., the first Monday morning of February 2020 (you must show I.D.). Two weeks from that day the rentals open up to the public at large. Rentals are first come first served.

Next year promises to be a REALLY busy Election Year, as there will most likely be four Elections in 2020. We can always stand to add to the team of Precinct Inspectors for Election day/night. Potential inspectors MUST be able to perform basic computer tasks. The Clerk's office can provide Voter Registration, Absent Voter Ballots, and help with other voting information.

Here's wishing you a great fall, a joyous holiday season, and a pleasant winter... and don't forget the sledding hill here behind the Township Hall!



## treasurer's office update

by Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Hello from the Treasurer's Office!

Hope everyone is enjoying the end of summer. We are doing well in the Treasurer's Office and staying busy.

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

## water information

We have decided, after much discussion, to only accept cash, money order or credit card payments for water shut-off notices. Checks will no longer be accepted as a method of payment for a water shutoff notice. Please call or visit our office when you receive your BLUE water bill if payment arrangements are needed. We are happy to help, but can only do so *before* water is shut off for nonpayment. **FALL AND WINTER WATER/SEWER UTILITY BILLS ARE DUE IN OCTOBER AND JANUARY.**

## important tax dates

**SUMMER TAX BILLS ARE DUE BY 4:30 PM ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16th, 2019.** Interest will begin to accrue at 1% a month, or any fraction of a month beginning at the close of business on September 16th for any unpaid balance. The interest is NOT the Townships' and must be collected for disbursement. Partial payments are always accepted during the collection cycle.

**WINTER TAX BILLS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAILING ON NOVEMBER 27th, 2019.**

Winter tax payments will be collected without interest or penalty beginning Monday, December 2nd through 4:30 pm Friday, February 14th, 2020.

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Treasurer's Report continued...

**FEBRUARY 14th, 2020, IS THE DUE DATE FOR BOTH 2019 SUMMER DEFERRED AND WINTER TAXES.**

For this due date, a post office date will be accepted as timely if received within 7 business days of the postmark. At the close of business on February 14th a 3% penalty is added to unpaid 2019 taxes. The only exceptions are lawfully deferred winter taxes. Please refer to the back of your

tax bill for additional information regarding deferments.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 2020**, is the last day to pay taxes locally and the Treasurer's Office will remain open until 5pm this day. Real property taxes are turned over delinquent to the county on March 2nd, 2020, for collection by the Monroe County Treasurer.



## from the building department

by Joe Lehmann,  
Building Official

The Building Department has seen a big increase in construction this year! It was a very busy summer for us. With the work going on in Frenchtown we want to remind contractors and homeowners to please call us with 24 hours notice to schedule required inspections on your permits. For your convenience we send out a reminder 30 days prior to your permit expiring to get these matters cleared up.

For the health and safety of our residents it is important that we have an opportunity to inspect the work completed so that we know it meets minimum code. Home owners should always ask their contractors for a copy of final approval for all permits. If you are one of the many who have built a new home in our Township this year, "Welcome!"

The Building Department welcomes Mr. Chris Collins as our new Ordinance Enforcement Officer.

Business owners in the area, we encourage you to check out our Township Zoning Ordinances, Article 25, regarding signage:

<https://frenchtowntownship.org/wp-content/uploads/ZoningOrdinances/ARTICLE-25.pdf>

The Building Department is here to help you with your projects and to ensure public safety, health and welfare insofar as they are affected by building construction, repair and maintenance. Please feel free to contact the Frenchtown Charter Township Building Department at our direct number 734-242-5900 and we will make every effort to help you with your concerns.

## water department

by Rich Weirch, Water Utility Director

As we move into fall, the Water Department would like to remind you to protect all of your water services from freezing temperatures. Taking a little time now could save a lot of headaches later.



By now all of you should have received your new full-page water bill. We are excited by the way they have turned out; with the extra space we can provide you with more information. Watch your water bill for any updates that we have coming. As part of the new billing changes, you can now have your bill sent electronically to your email. Simply complete the email portion on your water bill and you're all set up. You will see the water bill in your email on the next billing cycle.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Lead and Copper rule requires that the Frenchtown Water Department inspect all of our service lines within 5 years. We are required to determine what material the service line coming into your home is made of. This program will be scheduling home inspections starting in January 2020. We will be sectioning off all of our service areas, so please watch your mail for a letter asking you to schedule an appointment. The program will take 4-5 years to complete. There will be no cost to the homeowner for any of the work we will be performing. You will not be asked to change any of your plumbing. It will simply be an inspection to prove what type of material services your home. We will need all of your cooperation to complete this project.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the topics above or anything about your water, please feel free to call the Water Department (734) 289-1015. We will do what we can to handle them as fast as possible.



# frenchtown fire department

by Wendy Stevens, Fire Chief



**B**ack to school, football, and pumpkin spice are filling the air. Fall has arrived and the fire department is ready for the changing of the seasons. Training is focusing on motor vehicle extrications for the slippery road interactions, hose advancement techniques in preparation for chimney and furnace mishaps, advanced emergency medical treatment (more about that later) and re-visiting our ice & cold-water equipment and rescue techniques.

Your Frenchtown Fire Department has been the recipient of a potential gift of life. The Derik Bondy Memorial Foundation has donated an Ice Rescue Trailer to the residents of Frenchtown Township via the Fire Department. This well-equipped custom trailer contains ice and cold-water rescue equipment. The trailer was designed by one of our own firefighters, John DeBarr, and built according to his specifications by Bravo Trailers under the watchful eye of Tim Kelley of Kelley and Sons Trailers. This began as a dream for the family of Derik, to give back to the community, as a means to save another's life if a similar situation should be presented. The trailer by design, houses all of our cold water rescue gear from Mustang suits (cold water suits), an RDC, Rapid Deployment Craft, (an inflatable boat used for rapid ice water entry, protecting both the rescuer and the victim), floating rope and reels, icepicks, floating backboards and much, much, more. The Fire Departments gratitude to the entire Bondy family is immense. This trailer and its contents will benefit much more than just Frenchtown Township, due to mutual aid agreements with county fire departments surrounding Lake Erie and inland waterways alike, this trailer will be transported as needed and requested to any ice rescue emergency reaching far beyond the borders of our township.



More exciting news! The Frenchtown Fire Department is preparing to provide the residents and visitors of this great township with Advanced Life Support, ALS, tentatively scheduled to kick off on January 1, 2020. What does this mean? I was hoping you would ask. Currently the Fire Department is licensed to provide Basic Life Support, BLS. We are working to relicense to ALS. The Fire Department has been hiring Paramedic firefighters since

early 2006. At this point in time, 15 of the 18 on-shift members, 16 members if you add the chief, are licensed paramedics, working at the BLS. We aim to change that. Beginning next year our paramedics will be using their specialized skill sets to provide a higher quality of care for every person calling 9-1-1 for a medical emergency. Advanced Life Support allows paramedics to perform medication therapy, and IVs, advanced airway techniques, 12 lead ECG with interpretation, and treatment currently only provided by an emergency room. Essentially your Fire Department will be arriving to assist you with the capabilities of a hospital emergency room, minus the testing capabilities (MRI, CAT Scan, X-Rays, etc.). No longer will they only be providing supportive care they will be diagnosing cardiac issues and treating them prior to arrival at the ER. Transportation will remain with Monroe Community Ambulance, MCA. However, our paramedics will begin advanced treatment therapies and life saving measures, MCA will maintain these treatments and transport the patients to the hospital. We are proud to make this transition, and it is long overdue. The members of the Frenchtown Fire Department have worked extraordinarily hard to accomplish this goal. Members attended specialized training to become instructors at the paramedic level, others have researched the best equipment, and everyone has been training enthusiastically in preparation for the January 1 start date. We are looking forward to begin providing all residents and visitors of our great township with a higher level of medical care matched only by our high standards for you and your family's care.

Our Fire Department Open House is scheduled for October 5, 2019. We will be displaying our newly renovated Station 2, located at 2885 Nadeau Road. Bring the entire family for a station tour and an educational day of fun. The Derik Bondy Memorial Trailer will be on display along with our entire compliment of emergency apparatus and live fire demonstrations. Like our page on Facebook for updates and times. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lastly, please be reminded that open burning is allowed only from October 20 to November 30: Outdoor Burning Regulation Ordinance 175. Be aware of the weather conditions and wind direction and be considerate of your neighbors before you burn. Safety first: change those smoke detector batteries when you set your clocks back, and clean your chimneys before your light your fireplaces, and prepare your cars for winter.



# library news

by Jane Steed, Community Librarian

Due to the many activities scheduled for our township's library branches and the lack of space to describe all of them in the newsletter, please go to the township's website, **LIBRARIES** (on top at the far right). Many of the activities require online advance registration, so be sure to check carefully. All activities are also listed on the Monroe County Library System website at [www.monroe.lib.mi.us](http://www.monroe.lib.mi.us). The following is a brief overview of the many rich offerings.

## At the Blue Bush Branch:

Story times, the home school **Book Club**, our popular **Mystery Book Club** and our **Classic Book Club**, "Sit Chat Finish That" and **Girls Club** all got underway in September. October events: create a small hanging "Straw Hat" door decoration; "Blue Bush Boo Bash" and "Trick or Treat." November and December movies: "Toy Story 4" and "The Lion King" plus a visit from Santa — be sure to register online.

## At the Robert A. Vivian Branch:

Story Time is back as well as "A Puzzle in a Day" and "Crafternoons" and "An Afternoon Read" book club. The 3rd Thursday of every other month, take part in our "3rd Thursday Special." And don't forget, on the 4th Monday of each month "An Afternoon Read" Book Club meets. Hope for dry weather to "Make a Scarecrow" on September 21st and for the "Trunk or Treat" event on October 23rd. Branch technician Diane is famous for "spur of the moment" craft programs.

## At the Frenchtown-Dixie Branch:

**Preschool Toddler** story times have begun. Book clubs for grown-ups include the popular Tuesday evening club and "Soup for the Soul." Kids and Families, come on Thursday, September 19 for our first **Minecraft Party**. "Pumpkin Parade" is October 22nd. **Downton Abby Tea** on Sunday, November 3rd...watch for more details online and in our branch libraries. **Attention! Avenger Fans take note!** On Friday, October 11th be ready for the event of the season: **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!!** More related activities follow in November and December and into 2020.

Happy Autumn to All! Wishing you a Peaceful Thanksgiving and a Beautiful Holiday Season.

# frenchtown recreation department

by Larry Chinavare, Recreation Director

I would like to start this newsletter with a big thanks to all the directors for their hard work during the summer programs. They all did a great job. We had over 700 children and adults participating in our summer program this year.

John Naveaux reported the Tot Lot program did fine and some of the designated tot lot areas were up in numbers. Congratulations to all the teams who participated this year and a special thanks to all the coaches for the time they donated to our program. Without them, the program would not be a success.

We need coaches for our Little League Program. Every year League Director, Phil Coyle, has to make numerous phone calls trying to recruit coaches. If you are interested in coaching next year please give Phil a call at 734-430-2827.

A Fall Co-ed Ball League is being planned for this fall. If you have a team and are interested in playing, please contact Al Fernandez at 313-969-7097.

The Bocce Ball Court behind the Frenchtown Recreation Center (Senior Center) has been re-surfaced and ready for play. The Tennis Court behind the Township Hall has lines painted for Pickle Ball. The Walking Path behind the Frenchtown Recreation Center has been re-surfaced and looks great.

## COMING EVENTS

### Halloween Party

Saturday, October 26, 2019, at Kiwanis Park until 1:30.

### Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14, at the Frenchtown Recreation Building (Senior Center), details available soon online.

Any businesses that would like to donate to our annual parties can contact me at the number below. In closing, have a great fall. I am located in the Frenchtown Recreation Building (Senior Center), 734-243-1732, [Ichinavare@frenchtownsenior.com](mailto:Ichinavare@frenchtownsenior.com). Your comments and concerns are always welcome.

**FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
2744 VIVIAN ROAD  
MONROE, MICHIGAN 48162

[www.frenchtowntownship.org](http://www.frenchtowntownship.org)

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# 2019-2020 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 Tuesday .....3:00 p.m.  
3rd Tuesday ..... 10:00 a.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.