



Volume 21 - Issue 1 • SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Frenchtown TODAY

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Points of Contact

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER
TOWNSHIP - (734) 242-3282

Assessing	Department 2
Clerk	Department 3
Building	Department 4
Supervisor	Department 5
Treasurer	Department 6
Water (Billing)	Department 7
Water Plant	289-1015
Water Emergency	289-1015
Fire (Non-Emergency)	241-8853
Fire (Emergency)	911
Recreation	243-1732
Resort District Authority	289-2537
Senior Citizens Center	243-6210

Or Visit Us At:

2744 Vivian Road
Monroe, Michigan 48162
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Or on the Web At:

www.frenchtowntownship.org



From the Supervisor's Desk

By James McDevitt, Supervisor

REFLECTION

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! All the staff at Frenchtown Charter Township offices sincerely hope everyone is enjoying a productive and healthy 2018.

TRASH SERVICE

Republic Services is the company Frenchtown Charter Township has contracted. The trash and recycling bins are the property of Republic Services and are meant to stay with the property at which they were distributed and are not to be removed from the premises. In order to maintain the overall cost of this service, it is necessary to control the number of trash bins issued to each household.

- If you have an extra trash or recycle bin, please call my office at 242-3282, and we will come out and pick it up.
- Remember to place the trash bins 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.
- To avoid having paper and other debris coming from the trash trucks, please remember to bag your loose trash item in plastic trash bags before placing them in the trash bin.
- Please return the bins back to your house. This will help avoid possible theft and damage to the bins.
- Do not mix compost with your trash or recycling. If a driver notices compost in either cart, it will be tagged and not collected.
- Construction material (dry wall, flooring, trim, etc) should not be placed in the trash or recycling bins. Call to see if a bulk pick up can be scheduled.
- Always remember to leave at least 4 feet between carts for ease in servicing.

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From the Supervisor's Desk *(continued from page 1)*

BULK ITEMS - if you have large items that do not fit in your container, Republic Services needs 24 hours' notice to schedule a bulk pick up.

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.

***** YARD WASTE COLLECTION WILL BEGIN *****

Monday, April 2, 2018 – Friday, November 30, 2018

Remember to place your yard waste curbside apart from your household trash by 7 AM on the day of your normal trash pick-up.

Holiday Schedule for trash and recycling pickup will run one day late.

THANKSGIVING-November 22, 2018

CHRISTMAS – December 25, 2018

NEW YEAR – January 1, 2018

MEMORIAL DAY – May 28, 2018

INDEPENDENCE DAY – July 4, 2018

LABOR DAY – September 3, 2018

ROAD PROJECTS

There are no major road projects to report, but continued maintenance will take place on local and primary roads.

SPECIAL ROAD INFORMATION

- 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.

Frenchtown TODAY

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Frenchtown Charter Township

2744 Vivian Road • Monroe, MI 48162

Telephone: (734) 242-3282

James McDevitt, Supervisor

Mark J. Baker, Clerk

Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Hedwig Kaufman, Trustee

Jack Lindquist, Trustee

Alan VanWashenova, Trustee

Kraig A. Yoas, Trustee

Newsletter Committee:

Kraig A. Yoas, Editor

Hedwig Kaufman

Jack Lindquist

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STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

If you have a street light in your area that needs attention, please contact my office to make a report. Information such as the exact location of the pole, pole number and existing problem, along with other facts such as whether or not the pole is located near a school or park, are all necessary facts when my office is reporting to DTE Energy.

\$\$\$\$ FOR YOUR JUNK VEHICLES \$\$\$\$

Did you know your automobile may be worth money to you? Scrap yards will pay you for your old or unusable vehicle. There are organizations that accept vehicle donations. Please explore one of these choices if you have a car, truck, van or boat that you no longer use. **Inoperative vehicles left in yards and driveways are in violation of Frenchtown's Blight Ordinance. All vehicles must be licensed, operable and registered.**

CLOSING

We try very hard to follow up on any issues or complaints that may arise and have been reported to us. However, sometimes it takes time and investigating. We certainly have your best interests in mind and will work very hard to resolve issues as quickly as possible.

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.



Clerk's Office Update

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

Hope this finds you warm and well!

As I'm writing this, it's over 40 degrees outside! "Old Man Winter" lately seems to want us to believe he's "Mr. Spring"!!! But I've met "Old Man Winter" a time or two and he's just trying to fool us!

Speaking of Spring, the guys at the Recreation Department are ready to "Spring" into action to get the ball fields ready. The 2018 rentals of the Kiwanis Park Hall on Nadeau Road and the adjacent Ball Fields along with the Pavilions at our park on Blue Bush Road next to the Library and Fire Station, and the ones that are in the park behind the Township Hall here on Vivian Road, are well underway. You can call the Clerk's Office at 242-5800 for available dates and fees. (Please remember....you can now reserve a date to use the Kiwanis Park Hall for your event ANY day, not just on a Saturday or a Sunday)

Some (maybe all) of us here in Frenchtown will have a ballot issue to Vote on May 8th this spring. Other Elections WILL, for sure, occur in Frenchtown and throughout the State on August 7th and November 6th this year.

The new voting equipment for Michigan will be in use beginning this year.

Your Clerk's Office stands ready to help you with registering to vote, with requests for Absent Voter Ballots and other Election questions.

We can always stand to add to our pool of Election Precinct Workers. Workers at an Election Precinct Site are paid for their time; the township also pays for your required class time prior to working the Elections.

PLEASE BE AWARE that the Township has a Peddler's/Solicitor's License Ordinance. Anyone setting foot on your property trying to sell you something or engage you in ANY kind of personal financial transaction, MUST have a Township issued Peddler's/Solicitor's License. If they can't show you their Township License, PLEASE call me!!! If it's after hours, please contact the County Sheriff's Office, as this is a legal Township Ordinance, and the Sheriff is to enforce it for our safety.

Here's wishing you a pleasant Spring and Summer!



Treasurer's Office Update

By Julie Ellison, Treasurer

Hello all! Things are going extremely well in the Treasurer's Office. I continue to further my education by attending conferences, classes and networking with fellow Treasurers.

We said farewell to long time Deputy Treasurer, Denise Vore. She served as Deputy for over 16 years. Denise was a loyal, knowledgeable employee and she will be missed. Brittany Hulett was appointed Deputy Treasurer on January 16th, 2018. She is a Township resident and is doing an excellent job.

2017 Property Tax Collection Dates

The last day to pay 2017 Summer Deferred & Winter property taxes without incurring a 3% penalty is Tuesday, February 14th, 2018. A Post Office postmark of February 14th or before will be accepted as timely if received within 7 calendar days. Any drop box payments made after 4:30 p.m. on February 14th are processed as late payments received on the 15th and will be subject to the 3% penalty.

The Treasurer's Office will be open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28th, which is the last day 2017 property taxes, will be accepted at the Frenchtown Township Treasurer's office. A Post Office postmark of February 28th or before will be accepted as timely if received within 7 calendar days.

Delinquent property taxes may be paid at the Monroe County Treasurer's Office. Please review the back of your bill for additional information regarding delinquencies.

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Treasurer's Office Update *(continued from page 3)*

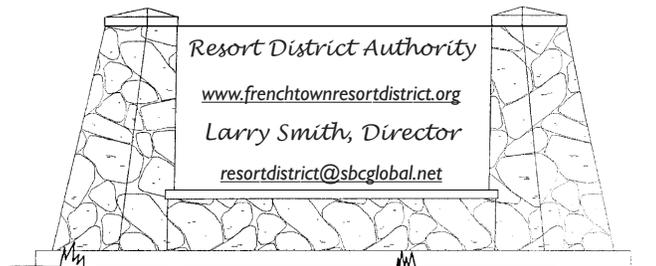
The Township may waive any late penalty charge for the homestead property of a senior citizen (age 65), paraplegic, quadriplegic, hemiplegic, eligible veteran, eligible widow or widower, totally and permanently disabled person, blind person, as those persons are defined in Chapter 9 of the Income Tax Act of 1967, 1967 PA 281, MCL 206.501 to 206.532, if the person makes a claim before February 15 for a credit for that property provided by this above mentioned Act. The person must present a copy of the form filed for that credit to the local Treasurer and may not have received the credit prior to February 15th. **Please note that you must file for your Homestead Tax Credit by February 15th annually to receive the penalty waiver.**

2018 Summer Tax Bills (of Tax Copies for escrow parcels) are scheduled to be mailed on June 30th, 2018 and the 2018 Winter Tax Bills on November 30th, 2018. Please review your bills and do not hesitate to call 734-242-5902 Dept. #6 with any questions.



NOTES FROM THE RESORT DISTRICT AUTHORITY

By Larry Smith, Director



Resort Board Members & Appointments

In January 2018, the Resort board elected officers and made appointments for the year. All positions stayed the same as last year.

Officers

Molly Luempert-Coy - Chairman
James McDevitt - Vice Chairman
Kraig Yoas - Treasurer
Joe Congiolo - Secretary
Ed Straub Jr. - Trustee

Appointments

Kerry Bondy - Legal Advisor
Mannik & Smith Group - Engineer
Larry Smith - Director
Don McGuire - Auditor

Last year was a productive one for the Resort District Authority and this year promises to be the same. Phase 2 of the Pavement Asset Management Plan was completed in June. This contract provided for all the roads in Indian Trails, Baycrest, and Pointe Aux Peaux Farms to be micro-surfaced, extending the useful life of the pavement. Phase 3 is planned for this summer and covers the roads in Grand Beach, State Park, Brest Bay Grove, Long's, Highland Road and Sterling Williams. It remains the goal of the plan to have all the roads in the Resort District to receive some kind of surface treatment by 2020.

The Detroit Beach Seawall construction project was completed last year under budget, saving the district a considerable sum of money. A contract for seawall rehabilitation on the Brest Bay side of Stoney Point Peninsula was awarded and construction begun this past summer. The contractor has shut the project down for the winter but plans to resume in the spring and finish by the end of the year.

These infrastructure projects contribute significantly to the improvement of our communities. As I wrote in the last newsletter: "Investing time and money in where we live is a sign of a healthy community, generating pride in our homes, showing respect for our neighbors and creating a safe environment to raise our families." While the Resort District Authority has a role to play in this, the most important one is you and your community associations. Don't just sit on the sidelines and spectate on what is going on in your community, participate with your neighbors to make the Resort District a great place to live.

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From The Building Department

By Joe Lehmann, Building Official

The Building Department welcomes a new staff member Maureen Quinn! Mrs. Quinn has taken over duties as the Planning Commission Clerk and will be assisting with all the new commercial development. She is not full time in our department (you might see her assisting in the Treasurer's department also) but we are grateful to have her as part of the team.

Just a reminder we are now enforcing the following codes: 2015 Michigan Building Code, 2015 Michigan Mechanical Code, 2015 Michigan Plumbing Code, 2015 Michigan Residential Code, 2015 Michigan Rehabilitation Code and the 2014 National Electrical Code. Code books are available at shop.iccsafe.org/michigan-discounts?ref=MI

To celebrate Building Safety Month, the Building Department offers Free Permit Week occurring May 7th - 11th, 2018. Township residents can apply for permits during this week to fix up their properties with no fees attached. Permits included in this yearly event are the installation of replacement windows, doors, roofing, siding, fences, sheds under 200 sq ft, driveways and cement flat work only. Remember, for your convenience, permit applications and the Township Zoning Ordinance are available on our website.

The Township Blight Inspector would like to remind Homeowners, Landlords and Tenants the appropriate procedures for handling larger household items and furniture is to contact Republic Waste Services (800) 878-4626 in order to schedule a bulk item pick up. We appreciate your efforts to keep our Township clean.

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 242-5900 and we will make every effort to help you with your concerns.

Frenchtown Fire Department's Hot Topics

By Wendy Stevens, Fire Chief



It's that time of year again, Spring Newsletter season. Your Fire Department has been busy since our last newsletter. We have spent time fighting fires, responding to emergencies, both medical and situational, training and responding to the needs of our community with the assistance of the Frenchtown Firefighters Association. The Frenchtown Firefighter Association (FFA) is made up of all members of the department and is operated by both fire department unions, the IAFF representing the full-time firefighter staff and the UAW representing the Paid-On-Call firefighter staff. These members collect donations and operate fund raising events as a 501C3 organization. These funds are then used to provide for members of our community. Past donations have included giving coats

to children, providing backpacks full of school supplies to elementary age students for the new school year, donating hats and gloves to children in need, and this year the FFA as teamed up with Crusaders 4 Christ Ministries and are assisting to support a food pantry. In the past the FFA has donated food throughout the school year to families in need, however the need lasts longer than the school year and with this new combined effort, food will be available for the entire year. If you are interested in donating to the FFA please find our Facebook page the *Frenchtown Township FIRE Department* and like our page. We post our fund-raising events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give you a glimpse into our fire department training. Each month the department strives to train as we would respond, being ready to respond to every unique need the community may call for. We also train on our equipment to maintain high levels of proficiency.

The entire department participated in the VIFS Michigan State Approved Drivers Training course, beginning with a full lecture and ending with each member performing a proficiency driving test, displaying our ability to

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Frenchtown Fire Department's Hot Topics *(continued from page 5)*

operate every piece of apparatus through a technical obstacle course. A very heartfelt thank you to the Mall of Monroe for allowing us the use of their parking lot for a full week.

The department also trained in HAZMAT decontamination with the Emergency Management Division of Monroe County. Specialized emergency medical training was also covered renewing our Basic Trauma Life Support and CPR certifications as well as keeping our Emergency Medical Licenses current through continuing education. A myriad of fire related topics were covered including search and rescue, engine operations and damage assessment on structure fires to name a few. As the weather turned colder we trained on cold water and ice rescue. Re-familiarizing ourselves with our equipment and how to perform in times of rescue. As the weather again turns warmer we will begin training on our water rescue boat. The department continues to make training a priority into this new year with Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Fire Ground Safety and Survival scheduled



for February and different topics each successive month.

With the changing of the seasons I will take the opportunity 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. Ordinance #175 is available on the Frenchtown Township website http://www.frenchtowntownship.org/bui_genordinance.php. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

The Frenchtown Fire Department is actively seeking to increase our Paid-On-Call ranks, if you are interested in becoming a member of your Fire Department, applications are available on the Frenchtown Township website under the Township Supervisor's Tab.

Library News

By Jane M. Steed, Community Librarian for the Frenchtown Area Libraries

There were 998,988 items checked out from the Monroe County Library System in 2017. As Tony Benvenuto, one of our dear, sweet maintenance guys in the 1980's use to say, "that's a lot of books!" There were also 113,038 people that attended events or programs in our facilities. Were you one of them? Three of our 16 branches are located right here in Frenchtown Township: our Blue Bush Branch at 2210 Blue Bush Road, our Frenchtown-Dixie Branch at 2881 Nadeau Road, and our R.A. Vivian Branch at 2664 Vivian Road.

I would like to invite you to stop in and visit this year and find out what activities and events are planned. Check

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Library News *(continued from page 6)*

out some of our books, movies, magazines, CDs and our downloadable collection. You might want to join a book club or attend a program. There are over 30 book clubs throughout our library system for many different genres. The list of clubs can be found from our homepage under the *Books and More* tab.

Mark your calendars for a special program at the Frenchtown-Dixie Library on March 8th at 6 p.m. The American Red Cross will be presenting "Red Cross Round-Up." There will be two parts to this event, one for the adults and one for the children. The adults will learn how to be Red Cross Ready while the children will learn about the Pillowcase Project. Those attending will have the opportunity to register to have up to 3 smoke detectors installed at no charge in their home. Please be sure to register for this program.

Don't forget to start summer off right and register your children for our Summer Reading program. This summer our theme Libraries Rock will feature entertaining programs, crafts and music for all ages. Remember children who read throughout the summer retain more of what they learned during the school year. For more information on these or any of our programs, go to mymcls.com.

Frenchtown Senior Citizens, Inc.

By Barbara Mazur, Executive Director

As we close the old year, I always take a look at the year passed.

I believe in "Bucket Lists" and I believe these lists are a good tool for going into a new year and the chance to make amends and to start over. We plan to move the center into a positive forward thinking part of our community.

We will bring new programs to the senior members of our community. Also, we will put together programs to include our grandchildren. With your help we can do these.

Until next time.

Frenchtown Recreation

By Larry Chinavare

Before long, spring and summer programs will be underway: Golf, Tennis, Youth Baseball / Softball, Adult Softball, and Tot Lots.

Sign up for Summer Youth Baseball and Softball will start March 5th - April 6th. *All parents or legal guardians will have to read and sign a Concussion Danger Signs form before their child will be allowed to play.* This is required by the State of Michigan. This form is on the Recreation website and must be submitted to the Treasurer's office with the registration form, along with a fee of \$15.00 per player beginning on March 7th.

Adult softball registration sign up: mid-February - April 6th. Pick up team packets at the Treasurer's office or download them from the township website starting on February 12th. Only 16 teams will be allowed each night. The Clerk's office will time stamp the entry forms as they come in on a first come first served basis.

Tot Lots will be starting up in early June. John Naveaux will be notifying schools and the newspaper with times and locations.

The Easter egg hunt will take place on Saturday March 24th at Frenchtown Kiwanis Park on Nadeau Road. Age Groups will be 1 - 5 years old, and 6 - 10 years old. Check the township website and fliers for times.

Kiwanis Park and Pavilion rentals are handled by the Clerk's office.

Have a great 2018! My office is in the Recreation Building next to the Township Hall, (734) 243-1732, lchinavare@frenchtownsenior.com. I welcome your comments and concerns. Go to www.FrenchtownTownship.org and click on "Recreation" at the top for all programs being offered.

Frenchtown Charter Township

2744 Vivian Road
Monroe, Michigan 48162

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2018 Township Meetings Schedule

Township Board

- 2nd Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
- 3rd Tuesday / Workshop Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

- 1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.
- 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

- 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Commission

- 1st Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Resort District Authority

- 2nd Wednesday 3:00 p.m.

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, 2786 Vivian Road, Monroe Michigan.

Additional Meetings

Lake Erie Transit, 1105 West Seventh St.,
Monroe

1st Thursday - 9:00 a.m.

Senior Citizen Board, 2786 Vivian Road,
Monroe

3rd Wednesday - 9:00 a.m.

Mark J. Baker, Clerk