



Franklin Township - Voted One of Money Magazine's Best Places to Live - 2019
Voted New Jersey Monthly Magazine's Top 100 Towns - 2019

Volume 14 • Issue 2

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Winter 2021-22

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Board of Education Info

Hello Franklin!

Join us as we explore some of the wonderful places and faces that make up our community of Franklin Township. The past two years have brought new faces to Franklin's Township Council. Meet your newest Township Council members.

Meet Councilman Sivaraman Anbarasan



Sivaraman Anbarasan, known locally as "Councilman Ram," became the Councilperson-at-Large for Franklin Township commencing in January of 2020. Upon his swearing in, close to two years ago, Anbarasan promised "more good policies and less divisive politics" and that he would work for ALL Franklin residents. Holding municipal taxes flat, investing in our aging water and sewer infrastructure, improving our roads, increasing greenspace landscape, and promoting economic development are good policies by the Council that benefit all.

Einstein once said "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." During this pandemic crisis, Anbarasan has been organizing fundraising campaigns to support the Franklin Food Bank, helping to feed thousands of our neighbors.

"One of my passions is to create workforce education and training opportunities for our residents, especially the youth and unemployed. My goal is to bring back a Raritan Valley Community College center in town at the historic Tulipwood House on Hamilton Street soon. Further, I will be personally awarding a scholarship to promote diversity in our Police Department."

In 2022 and beyond, Anbarasan plans to make himself available at the municipal office by appointment for listening to residents and offering his assistance, including free Notary service. He can be reached at (908) 581-3188, Councilman.Ram@Franklinnj.gov, or residents can schedule a meeting with him at <https://calendly.com/ramnj/15min>.

Meet Councilwoman Shepa Uddin

Shepa Uddin is the second ward Councilwoman for Franklin Township, Somerset County. As a full-time working parent and business entrepreneur, she brings over 15 years of IT professional skills and expertise to the table in her role as Councilwoman. She is a small business owner and understands the concerns and challenges of owning a local business in town.

Uddin is one of the ambassadors of the Franklin Food Bank. In addition, she serves on multiple committees such as Land Use, Public Works, and Fire Prevention. She is committed and passionate in serving her residents to the best of her ability.

"As a new Councilmember and as someone new to politics, I bring a fresh and new perspective to the Council with my broad range of personal and professional experiences. My goal is to partner with our residents to build upon the accomplishments of the past in order to continue to improve Township services, be a voice for citizens throughout the community and to further strengthen communication and transparency. I'm honored to work with our residents as we work to make our community a better place for all of us."

Councilwoman Uddin can be reached at Councilwoman.Uddin@franklinnj.gov.



Meet Councilmember Ed Potosnak



This past November, Franklin Township elected its newest member of the Township Council, Ed Potosnak, who most recently served on the Franklin Township Board of Education and as previous Board President.

"I am honored to be elected to the Township Council in Ward 1," stated Councilmember-elect Potosnak. Potosnak will be replacing Councilman Ted Chase who recently announced his retirement from council and shared his plans to stay involved and continue to lend his decades of experience and knowledge. Potosnak's term will commence as on 01/01/22.

Councilmember-elect Potosnak is looking forward to applying his experience in public policy and environmental protection in order to enhance the quality of life in Franklin. His priorities include ensuring the public is supported during this COVID crisis with local testing, vaccinations, and expanded employment opportunities; attracting high quality businesses back into vacant storefronts and office buildings; and improving traffic.

Currently, Councilmember-elect Potosnak is Executive Director of New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, the leading political voice for the environment; serves as Chair of the Keep it Green Coalition working to sustain funding for the preservation and stewardship of New Jersey's natural resources; a board member on the Board of Sustainable Jersey; and on the Rutgers Glee Club Alumni Advisory Committee.

Franklin Township Engineer Wins NJSME Award for Franklin Township Youth Center

Franklin Township's Engineer, David, J. Samuel, PE, received an award from the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers for the Franklin Township Youth Center on Wednesday, November 17th. The award, which was received at their annual Luncheon held during the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City, was for Construction Management Projects.

Shortly after being appointed Municipal Engineer in 2019, David J. Samuel was authorized by the Governing Body to develop a parking lot improvement design to compliment the facility and proceed with the construction management of the overall project.

Construction management challenges included fair change order pricing negotiations for over excavation due to unsuitable fill discoveries, an unanticipated live sewer line requiring re-routing, abandonment of an existing well and a buried containment tank.

In addition, construction of the facility was also challenged as the world entered into an unforeseen Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic posed major challenges in acquiring manufactured materials in addition to labor/manpower shortages. As a result, equals of multiple alternate items were approved in order to move the project forward and innovative forms of workforce management were utilized.

The Franklin Township Youth Center, located at 429 Lewis Street in Somerset was designed by the architects Kimmell Bogrette, located in Philadelphia. The facility, which holds a capacity of nearly 900, will house a branch of the Franklin Township Public Library. Other features include state-of-the-art maker spaces, modern recreation facilities, a music/video studio, classrooms, lounges, gym, fitness rooms, and counseling spaces. The project also includes a parking area across the street, designed by CME Associates, along with associated grading, drainage, landscaping, lighting, electric vehicle charging stations, solar powered pedestrian cross beacons and security improvements designed to complement the Youth Center.

This marks the 34th consecutive year Mr. Samuel and CME Associates have received an award by the NJ Society of Municipal Engineers.



R to L; Beau Byrtus, Recreation Director; Darren Mazzei, PE, CME Project Leader; Windy White, Recreation Deputy Director; Saffie Kallon, Special Projects Manager

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Franklin Times
 475 DeMott Lane
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MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE EMERGENCIES DIAL

9-1-1

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergencies732-873-2300

Non-Emergencies

Auto-Attendant.....732-873-5533

Non-Emergency for Residents

in 609 area code.....732-821-1800

Non-Emergency Auto-Attendant

For Residents

in 609 area code.....732-821-1888

Tips Hotline (Pass along the

information).....732-873-PASS (7277)

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Main732-873-2500

Extensions

Animal Control6255

Assessor6320

Clerk (Elections, Dog Licenses,

Voter Registration) 6208

Construction Code

Enforcement.. 6220 or 732-873-7283

Collector

(Tax, Water) 6330 or 732-873-7284

Community Resource6310

Court 6262 or 732-873-7285

Economic Development.....6274

Engineering6230

Fire Prevention6303

Health Complaint 24/76370

Historic Preservation 6274

Human Resources..... 6202

Municipal Alliance..... 6353

Open Space..... 6279

Planning Board..... 6215

Public Works..... 732-249-7800

Purchasing..... 6239

Recreation ...6266 or 732-873-1991

Redevelopment Agency..... 6271

Rent Leveling Board 6274

Senior Advisory 6347

Special Projects..... 6427

Township Manager 6201

Vital Statistics (Marriage and

Death Certificates) 6375

Zoning Officer..... 6271

Zoning Bd. of Adj. 6215

WEBSITE

www.franklintwpnj.org

TOWN HALL

732-873-2500

E-MAIL

Township Manager

Bob.Vornlocker@franklinnj.gov

Collector of Revenue

Rossana.Gutierrez@franklinnj.gov

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Board of Education

732-873-2400

www.franklinboe.org

Library

732-873-8700

www.franklintwp.org

Sewerage Authority

732-873-2121

Ftsa-nj.org

Health Department/Education

908-231-7155

NEW – SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

Facebook.com/townshipoffranklin

Facebook.com/FTPDSomersetNJ

Twitter.com/twpooffranklin

Twitter.com/FTPDSomersetNJ

welcome NEW HIRES

Kristina Bush	Violations Bureau Clerk
Xavier Roman	PT Junior Mechanic
Lorenzo Moye	Police Officer
Janet Blackshear	School Crossing Guard
Joel Painson	Program Coordinator
Quilvio Taveras	Youth Center Manager
Joseph Jankowski	PT Program Assistant
Ginger Haithcox	PT Dance Instructor
Larissa Ford	PT Clerical
Janessa Rivera	Administrative Aide

congratulations

TO OUR PROMOTEEES

Sharene Davenport	Youth Center Manager
Mawiyah Holliman	Program Coordinator
Mayra Jimenez	Program Coordinator
Dwight Morgan	PT Program Assistant
Windy White	Recreation Deputy Director

thank you RETIREES

Joseph Glazewski	22 Years of Service
Patrick Lilavois	22 Years of Service

The image shows a screenshot of the Franklin Township website. A large, semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the page with the text "Coming soon..." in a cursive font, followed by "NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH" in bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the URL "https://Franklintwpnj.org" is displayed. The background shows the website's navigation menu and service finder section.

The advertisement features a large blue water drop icon on the left. To its right, the text reads "give LIFE", "give HOPE", and "give BLOOD" in a stylized font. Below this, the event details are listed: "Friday, January 7th" and "9:00 am - 3:00 pm". At the bottom, the location is given as "FRANKLIN TWP. MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS 475 DeMOTT LANE SOMERSET, NJ".

The advertisement has the headline "KEEP THEM CLEAR" in large, bold letters. Below it, the text says "If there's a fire hydrant near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter:". A diagram shows a fire hydrant with a dashed-line rectangle around it, labeled "CLEAR-AWAY ZONE". The width of the zone is marked as "3 ft." on both sides of the hydrant. Below the diagram, the instructions are: "Remove any snow and ice", "Clear a wide enough perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to work (about 3 feet)", and "Clear a path from hydrant to street".

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Name	Term Expires
Phillip Kramer, Mayor <i>mayor.kramer@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2023 732-675-7912
Kimberly Francois, Councilwoman, At-Large <i>councilwoman.francois@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2023 732-829-8258
Crystal Pruitt, Councilwoman, At-Large <i>councilwoman.pruitt@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2023 848-202-3062
Ram Anbarasan, Councilman, At-Large <i>councilman.ram@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2023 908-581-3188
Ed Potosnak, Councilmember, 1st Ward (Term Begins 1.1.22) <i>councilmember.potosnak@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2025 732-991-7574
Shepa Uddin, Councilwoman, 2nd Ward <i>councilwoman.uddin@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2025 732-857-6339
Charles Onyejiaka, Councilman, 3 rd Ward <i>councilman.onyejiaka@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2025 908-507-7832
Carl R. A. Wright, Councilman, 4 th Ward <i>councilman.wright@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2025 908-612-6393
James Vassanella, Councilman, 5th Ward <i>councilman.vassanella@franklinnj.gov</i>	12/31/2025 732-873-2500 ext. 6328

Winter is a Great Time to Visit the Library!

If you're looking to read a good book, attend one of our programs, join a reading club, take home a fun craft, or need answers for questions you have, the library can help you.

The Franklin Township Public Library has three locations: DeMott Lane, Franklin Park, and Lewis Street. While each branch offers similar services, each location is unique. We hope you'll visit each branch and find out for yourself!



Information on our locations and hours of operation can be found here: <https://www.franklintwp.org/about/location-hours/>

The best way to experience the Franklin Township Public Library and all it has to offer is with a library card. If you need a library card, check here to find out how to get one: <https://www.franklintwp.org/library-cards/>

If venturing out in the cold is not something you want to do, you can still visit the library at our website, <https://www.franklintwp.org/>. We have many online resources that you can use from the comfort of your own home. Stay warm and check out audiobooks & music, magazines & newspapers, ebooks, movies & television, and digital learning opportunities at <https://www.franklintwp.org/digital-library/>.

Follow us on social media too. Find us at FTPLibrary on Facebook, @FTPLibrary on Twitter, and ftppteens on Instagram.

We hope to see you soon!



CENTRAL JERSEY HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER

ANNOUNCING NEW GRANT DOLLARS AVAILABLE First Come, First Served Until Funds Are Gone!

Due to special funding from Capital One in October 2021, Central Jersey Housing Resource Center (CJHRC) has created **TWO** NEW Grant Programs for residents of Somerset/Middlesex County

DOWN PAYMENT GRANT UP TO \$6,000 PER HOUSEHOLD

Do you want to purchase a home, but you don't have enough for a down payment? Are you a first time homebuyer living now and planning to buy in Somerset/Middlesex County NJ? If you answered yes, we would encourage you to apply for **CJHRC's Down Payment Grant**. Requirements for the grant include: applicant(s) MUST have a homebuyer education certificate (CJHRC provides **FREE** homebuyer education); applicant(s) cannot mortgage more than 3.5 times total gross annual income; applicant(s) must have saved at least 3% of the purchase price; meet household income guidelines; applications are accepted until funds are depleted; to apply, contact CJHRC at 908-446-0036 for an application or use this link: https://cjhrc.org/images/CJHRC_Down_Payment_Grant_Application.pdf

RENT/SECURITY GRANT UP TO \$4,500 PER HOUSEHOLD

Are you a tenant looking to move but are finding it difficult to save enough for the 1st month's rent and security? If you currently live in Somerset/Middlesex County and have secured a rental unit in Somerset/Middlesex County and will be moving in soon or moved in recently (last 2 months), then we encourage you to apply for **CJHRC's Rent/Security Deposit Grant**. Requirements include household must complete a one-on-one counseling session, attend/view CJHRC's virtual financial literacy webinar and apply for CJHRC's Savings Match program; meet household income guidelines; have a 12-month written lease; rent cannot be more than 35% of household gross monthly income; applications are accepted until funds are depleted; to apply, contact CJHRC at 908-446-0036 for an application or use this link: https://cjhrc.org/images/CJHRC_Down_Payment_Grant_Application.pdf

CJHRC's Upcoming FREE Virtual Webinars for 2022

Virtual Homebuyer Webinar January 18 & January 2022
(contact CJHRC for information) 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

BRAND NEW Virtual Fair Housing Webinar January 27, 2022
Focusing on the rights of The Fair Housing Act 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm
(contact CJHRC for information)

Make sure you like us on Facebook (Central Jersey Housing Resource Center) or follow us on Instagram (cjhrc_housing) to get important housing announcements, resources and information like when NJ's homeowner assistance fund will be available to struggling homeowners or when new assistance programs become available. CJHRC will post when this program is available on our social media accounts.

CJHRC's staff provide **FREE** counseling services for financial literacy, pre- and post-purchase, rental, mortgage default/foreclosure, Fair Housing issues/questions and homeless counseling. Contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036. Please visit our website at www.cjhrc.org and click on the Housing Resource Center tab to view resources.

January 2022 to April 2022

PUBLIC MEETINGS

2022 Public Meeting Dates are subject to change as they have not been officially adopted by their respective boards as of printing

Township Council

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.
Reorganization/Regular –
Tuesday, January 4 at 7 p.m.
January 25 • February 8, 22 • March 8, 22
April 12, 26
Budget Hearings – March 1, 7, 15

Planning Board

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.
January 5, 19 • February 2, 16 • March 2, 16
April 6, 20

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.
January 6, 20 • February 3, 17 • March 3, 17
April 7, 21

Advisory Board of Health

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:30 p.m.
January 5 • February 2 • March 2 • April 6

Advisory Recreation Council

Community Senior Center, 7:00 p.m.
January 12 • February 9 • March 9 • April 13

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
8:00 p.m.
January 6 • February 3 • March 3 • April 7

Emergency Life Support

Public Safety Building, 7:00 p.m.
January 5 • April 6

Environmental Commission

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.
January 24 • February 7, 21 • March 7, 21
April 4, 18

Fire Prevention Board

Municipal Building, 7:30 p.m.
January 13 • February 10 • March 10 • April 14

Hamilton Street Advisory Board

Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.
February 7 • April 4

Historic Preservation Advisory Commission

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:30 p.m.
January 4 • February 1 • March 1 • April 5

Housing Authority

25 Parkside Street, 7:00 p.m.
January 12 • February 9 • March 9 • April 13

Human Relations Commission

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room
7:00 p.m.
January 26 • February 23 • March 23
April 27

Library Board of Trustees

Municipal Library, 5:45 p.m.
January 26 • February 23 • March 23
April 27

Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse/Youth Services Commission

Community Senior Center, 4:30 p.m.
January 19 • February 16 • March 16 • April 20

Open Space Advisory Committee

Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.
January 18 • February 15 • March 15 • April 19

Redevelopment Agency

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:30 p.m.
January 24 • February 28 • March 21 • April 18

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

Community Senior Center, 10:00 a.m.
January 28 • February 25 • March 25 • April 22

Sewerage Authority

70 Commerce Drive, 6:30 p.m.
January 4 • February 1 • March 1 • April 5

Shade Tree Commission

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:00 p.m.
January 27 • February 24 • March 24 • April 28

Trails Advisory Committee

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:00 p.m.
January 12 • February 9 • March 9 • April 13

Citizen's Academy

This program is designed for adults to learn about law enforcement and the Franklin Township Police Department. Come meet your Franklin Township Police Officers and learn what we do.

Wednesday, March 23rd | 6:30- 8:30pm

12 Week Session

Location: To Be Determined

Applications are available on website:

<https://www.franklintwpnj.org/CRB>



Tree Pruning – Late Winter is Best

All the leaves have long fallen from your trees. This is a good time to walk around and inspect the health of your trees. Through a tree's framework, you may notice a broken branch or two, branches that have no bark or are crossed or rubbing. What to do? Time to prune! Trees are an investment which may take up to 30 years to mature. As with any living thing, we must monitor the health of trees and take proper steps as needed to ensure their longevity.

So why prune?

1. Disease prevention – Removal of dead, diseased or insect infected wood can prevent problems from spreading and damaging healthy wood
2. Beauty – Many trees (such as native dogwood, redbud, serviceberry, willows, linden, and fruit trees) have attractive branch patterns that can be enhanced by judicious thinning of branches.
3. Proper growth – Some healthy trees will produce sprouts (vigorous growth from the base or lower sides) or suckers (vigorous growth from the roots). If you want your tree to have a single trunk, it's best to prune off these shoots so that they don't rob energy from the main portion of the tree. However, some trees produce root suckers because they are thicket-forming types of trees, in which case you may allow the suckers to grow if you prefer a thicket or multi-stemmed tree.
4. Rejuvenation – Remove old branches that show signs of dying such as peeling bark. If two branches are rubbing against each other, prune off one of the branches to prevent further injury to the branch you prefer to keep. This type of pruning will relieve the tree of supplying energy to its failing parts and provide energy for healthy growth.
5. Height control – Low-hanging branches may pose a safety hazard when walking beneath them, so selective removal of such branches is recommended.
6. Central leader – It is also recommended to remove the weaker central leaders of a tree if more than one central leader is present. Multiple leaders result in weak points at their junction, and the tree becomes more susceptible to fracture and significant damage during storms as the tree grows and these limbs become heavier.
7. Safety – Shade and street trees can become liabilities with dead, decaying or even branches with poor structure and are subject to breakage in strong winds. Selective pruning to prevent such hazards is recommended. Branches can also block sight lines along roadways creating a public hazard. Pruning branches that obstruct traffic signs and sight lines along roadways helps preserve safer driving conditions in your neighborhoods.

Pruning trees during winter offers disease protection, when organisms causing these diseases are most likely to be dormant. Therefore, winter pruning minimizes the risk of spreading disease.

Winter provides more time for wounds to heal. A healthy tree can heal the scars left by pruning over time. When the tree is dormant, winter pruning allows it to slowly recover, leaving more energy in the spring to focus on new growth. Winter pruning is less stressful on trees.

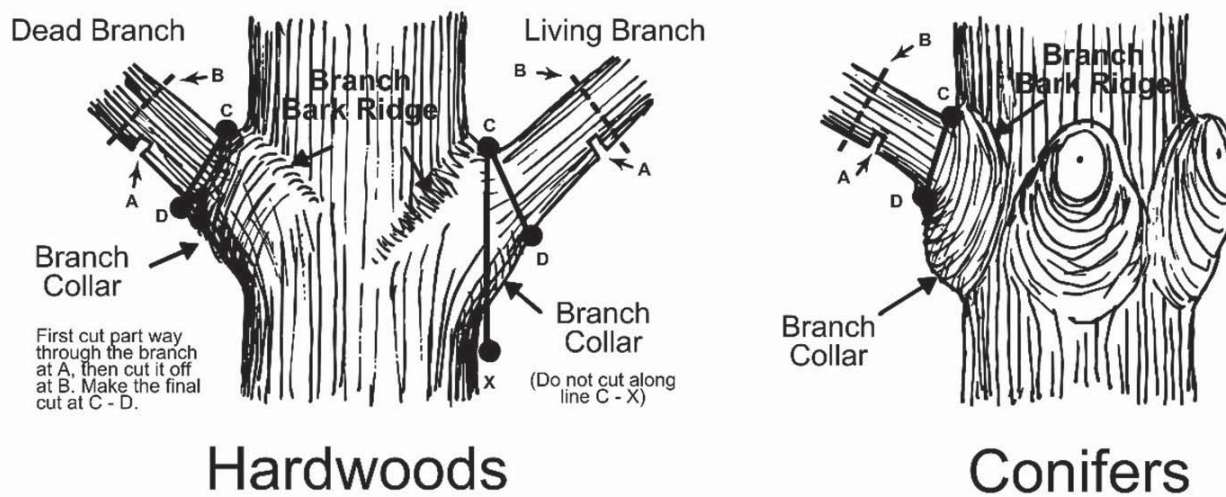
For many years it was recommended that pruning wounds should be sealed (painted) to help heal the wound. However, this practice can actually prevent proper healing of the tree. Research shows that trees will naturally heal the wound themselves (callusing), and manual sealing may prevent wound wood from forming.

Having the proper tools to prune trees is also important. Some of the tools you may want are hand shears for small branches up to 1/4" in diameter and lopping shears for branches up to 1 1/2" in diameter. Pruning saws should be used for branches over 1" in diameter and pole pruners can be used to reach branches beyond your reach. Sharp tools make cutting easier, and the cuts will heal better. Dull tools are more likely to crush or tear plant tissue.



TREE CITY USA®

Proper Pruning Principles




 **Arbor Day Foundation®**

"Wow", you say, "this is great informaton, but no way am I going to go out in the snow with a sharp tool or climb a ladder. Also, my trees are too big! Time to call someone to trim my trees".

Actually, it is time to call a Certified Arborist. Remember that your trees are a long-term investment, and Certified Arborists have the training and knowledge to keep that large investment growing. The difference could be losing your grand shade tree to disease because of improper pruning versus doing it right. A Certified Arborist can manage any tree, new or old, big or small.

Visit the Shade Tree Commission website for more information on hiring a tree expert, pruning trees, tree pests in our area, why not to seal tree pruning cuts, and other tips on caring for your shade tree assets. www.franklintwpnj.org/shadetree



WINTER IS COMING


Your Safety is Our Top Priority

ORDINANCE NO 4302-19

The parking of vehicles on any street within the Township during snow emergencies with the exception of Ambrose Street, Brookline Avenue and Home Street is prohibited. Said ordinance also provides for an individual property parking exemption permit.

This above ordinance amends Code Chapter 226: Vehicles and Traffic by repealing current Section 229, Temporary Parking Prohibition for Snow Plowing and Removal and replacing it with new Section 226-9, Parking Prohibited in Snow Emergencies.

For more information on how to obtain an individual property parking exemption permit contact Public Works at 732.873.2500 ext. 6290.



GET

HELP TIME FOOD



FRANKLIN FOOD BANK

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

GIVE

HELP TIME FOOD

<https://franklinfoodbank.org/>

2022 WINTER PROGRAMS

**Franklin Township
Parks & Recreation
Community/Senior Center
505 DeMott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873**

**Office Hours:
Monday-Friday,
8:30am-4:30pm
732-873-1991, Option 4
Email: franklinrec@franklinnj.gov**

**Website:
www.franklintwpnj.org/rec
Facebook:
@FranklinTownshipParksRecreation**

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Volume 2, Issue 1

Introducing The Franklin Township Youth Center Leadership Team!

The Franklin Township Youth Center is a tremendous investment in our youth and betterment of our wonderfully diverse community. Having the right leadership at the helm of center operations is crucial to making a positive and long-standing impact on youth who will further the success of our township from generations to come.

The mission of the center is to provide Franklin Township youth with the tools, inspiration and activities that enable them to reach and potentially exceed their personal and professional aspirations. It is therefore with great pleasure we introduce the new Franklin Township Youth Center leadership team. These individuals are full-time staff with the responsibility of managing day to day operations, program delivery and youth engagement. They are also supported by a team of part-time staff and an array of service providers who help to ensure the overall success of center outcomes, partnerships and resources.

The Youth Center will provide middle school and high school age youth with a variety of extracurricular activities such as sports, fitness, art, recording studio, games, dance and much more. The center staff stands on the belief that all young people deserve the chance to thrive. Youth Center staff will therefore work together to create opportunities and remove barriers that will ensure our township youth become productive, well-rounded adults. Youth Center memberships are available now so register your child online at franklintwp.recedesk.com

We look forward to creating great experiences for our youth and welcome residents to contact center staff at 732-873-1991 Option #4



MANAGER, SHAENE DAVENPORT has an extensive leadership background which she has effectively utilized over the years to ensure the success of township youth and families. As manager, Ms. Davenport will be dedicated to strengthening community connections with the belief that "we rise by lifting others."



PROGRAM COORDINATOR, MAAWIYAH HOLLIMAN is a life-long Franklin Township resident with a stellar professional background encompassing community volunteerism and youth outreach. She is "excited about all of the wonderful events and memories she will create for our community."



OFFICE COORDINATOR, STEPHANIE WILLIAMS has been with Franklin Township for over twenty years; her passion for service and driven personality will be instrumental with ensuring the effective and efficient management of Youth Center operations.



MANAGER, TONY TAVERAS has a wide-ranging career in the areas of youth development, career placement and education. Mr. Taveras will use his decades of expertise to help youth realize their full potential and he is steadfast with ensuring Franklin Youth see him as an "advocate, resource and role model".



PROGRAM COORDINATOR, JOEL PAINSON is a Franklin native and feels personally invested in the development and evolution of youth and overall community programs that will help Franklin Township be a better place to live. He believes that "There are no limits to how we can empower our youth to achieve greatness."



#THE FUTURE IS FRANKLIN

Register: <https://franklintwp.recedesk.com> 1

Youth Programs

While it is our hope that we will be able to offer the programs listed below, it is important to note that we may revise or cancel any or all programs due to COVID restrictions.

Indoor Tennis Lessons Saturdays, January 15 – February 19 **\$69 Residents/\$129 Non-Residents**

Franklin Township Community / Senior Center
Ages 5 & 6: 9:00-10:00am
Ages 7 & 8: 10:00-11:00am
Ages 9 & 10: 11:00am – 12:00pm

Participants will learn new skills and sharpen old ones. The use of foam balls and the smaller court size will allow students to concentrate on proper technique and improve their control and consistency.

Boys Basketball League Saturdays, January 8 - March 26 **\$135**

Hamilton Street Campus - FMS
Grades 3 & 4: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Grades 5 & 6: 1:00pm – 4:00pm
January 8 & 15 - Skills and drills
January 22 – Team Practices
January 29 – March 26 – Scheduled league games; league schedules TBA

Grades 7 & 8: 10:00-11:00am
Ages 9 & 10: 11:00am – 12:00pm

Girls Basketball League Saturdays, January 8 - March 26 **Grades 3-6 \$135**

1:00 – 4:00 pm
Franklin Township Youth Center, 429 Lewis Street, Somerset

January 8-29 - Skills and drills from 1:00-3:00pm
February 5-March 26 – Scheduled league games; league schedules TBA

Sweet & Savory Baking Sessions Mondays, January 10 – February 14 **Grades K-6 \$109**

6:00-7:30pm
Franklin Township Community/Senior Center

An in-person class to ignite a love for baking! Learn new skills & vocabulary while creating tasty treats. This program will help build essential math skills, encourage an adventurous palate, help explore new senses and build confidence. Participants will become less recipe-dependent and more creative. Recipes may include Bonbon cookies, homemade garlic knots, mini donuts, brownie bumps, ice cream cake. We cannot accommodate children with dietary restrictions and / or food allergies.

Gadgets & Gizmos Tuesdays, January 11 – February 15 **Grades K-6 \$99**

6:00-7:00pm
Franklin Township Community/Senior Center

This program is about the fun of doing something with what you've built. From a spinning top to a spin art model. Kids love playing with their creations! But don't worry, we sneak in lots of learning too – you'll understand the probability in the "3-in-a-row" game and learn how friction and symmetry affect your spinning top.

Chess Wizards Thursdays, January 20 – March 24 **Ages 6-12 \$175**

6:00-7:00pm
Franklin Township Community/Senior Center

Challenging chess lessons, exciting tournaments, fun activities and more! Brand new to chess? You'll learn the basics and will be playing in no time! Already a seasoned checkmate artist? You'll learn new ways to let your creativity loose on the board!

Super STEM Saturdays Saturdays, January 22-February 26 **Ages 5-7 \$70**

1:00 – 2:00pm
Franklin Township Community/Senior Center

Children will engage in activities that spark learning and discovery. Participants will explore a problem then design and create an engineering solution. Children will see mistakes as normal and positive as they learn from them and move on to something greater!

Register: <https://franklintwp.recedesk.com> 2

Saturday Enrichment Experiences

Chemical Wizardry **\$33**
Saturday, February 5
9:00am-12:00pm

Cafeteria, Hamilton St. Campus-FMS

Get ready for a fun-filled "magical" laboratory experience Harry Potter style! This class is an introduction to the sciences of chemistry and physics. In addition to learning about atoms, bonding, and the periodic table you will enjoy making Flubber, Silly Putty, Super Hi-Bounce balls and more. Have fun making a lava lamp "like" tube, Glowing goo and "instant" snow. You will also see a demonstration of the Big Bang Cannon, Magic Genie in a bottle, and a chemical volcano.

Crime Scene Investigation

Saturday, February 12 **\$33**
9:00am-12:00pm

Cafeteria, Hamilton St. Campus-FMS

Learn about forensics, crime scene investigations and crime lab chemistry as you perform experiments designed to show you just how those tricky cases are solved. Search for evidence, gather clues, and discover how science can help you solve the mystery! Dust and classify fingerprints, analyze handwriting, test for blood type and DNA using simulated blood, and use "Glow Blood" to see where humans can't see. Examine hair and clothing fibers, practice chemistry to identify mystery substances, and more.

Battle-Bots, Mini-Bots and Robotic Fun

Saturday, March 12 **\$33**
9:00am-12:00pm

Franklin Township Community/Senior Center

Build and create a wide range of robot projects using your imagination. Projects will include constructing a Battle-Bot from our huge Robot modular collection and learning engineering principles in a fun, hands-on atmosphere. Additional exploration will take place with several other types of robots that allow for fun robotic exploration and coding! We will explore with Sphero robots, Ozobots, Botley 2.0, Artie Max, and more. Students will build a "BristleBot" robotic project to take home.

For Youth and Adult program questions contact:
Gloria Fidecaro, Recreation Program Coordinator
Gloria.Fidecaro@franklinnj.gov, 732-873-2500 x6350



Therapeutic Programs

Franklin Township's therapeutic recreation programs are designed to meet the needs of participants with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in order to enhance physical, cognitive, emotional and social functioning. All programs take place at the Community/Senior Center, 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset. While it is our hope that we will be able to offer the programs listed below, it is important to note that we may revise or cancel any or all programs due to COVID restrictions.

Fit and Friends **\$10 per session**
Ages 6-12

Wednesdays, January 12, 26, February 9, 23

6:30 - 7:30pm

This action packed exercise and movement program is designed for children with Special Needs. Children will engage in social interactions and set individual goals in a fun and nurturing environment.

Friday Night Drop In **\$10 per session**
Ages 13+

Fridays, 1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/25

7:00-9:00pm

For Teens and Young Adults with Special Needs. Have fun and socialize with your friends. Each time we meet there will be new and exciting activities.

Adaptive Dance Parties **\$12 per session**
Ages 13+

Fridays, 1/14, 2/11, 3/18

7:00-9:00pm

Enjoy a dance party designed for Special Needs Teens and Adults with our friends from Princeton Special Sports, Princeton Recreation, and Montgomery Township Recreation at the Princeton Middle School. Engage in movement and socialization with Recreation Staff and Volunteers. Enjoy the music played by our favorite DJ Redline Steven Knox!

Register for this program at Princeton Special Sports: www.pssnj.org

For Therapeutic program questions contact:
Mona Rilly, Therapeutic Program Coordinator
Mona.Rilly@franklinnj.gov, 732-873-2500 x6357



Register: <https://franklintwp.recreation.com> 3

Adult Programs

Ceramics @ Hamilton St. Campus of FMS, Rm 517 **Ages 16+** **\$135**
Wednesdays, January 19 – March 23
6:00- 8:00pm

A 10 week session of ceramics tailored to the adult learner. Participants will learn various hand construction techniques then finish and glaze their projects!

Adult Volleyball @ SGS Campus of FMS **Ages 18+** **\$30 Residents Only**
Tuesdays, January 11 – April 26
7:00-8:30pm

Pick-up games for adults 18 and older. Recreational play from 7:00-7:45. Competitive play from 7:45-8:30pm.

Zumba @ Community Center **Ages 18+** **\$60 Residents/\$120 Non-Residents**
Tuesdays & Thursdays, January 11 – March 3
7:30pm – 8:30pm

Take the "work" out of your workout, by mixing low & high intensity moves for an interval style, calorie burning dance party. The fusion of Latin and international music will make you forget you're working out while becoming a healthier you. Invite your friends & family to be part of the Zumba Fitness Party - you'll love the results!

Adult Executive Basketball **Ages 25+** **\$30 Residents Only**
@ SGS Campus - FMS **(Photo ID Required)**

Monday, January 10 – May 2

Pick-up basketball games for adults 25+

For Youth and Adult program questions contact:
Gloria Fidecaro, Recreation Program Coordinator
Gloria.Fidecaro@franklinnj.gov
732-873-2500 x6350



Special Event Programs

While it is our hope that we will be able to offer the events listed below, it is important to note that we may revise or cancel any or all events due to COVID restrictions.

2022 SAVE THE DATES

February	Black History Month	September	9/11 Commemoration
March	Women's History Month	September	Franklin Day
April	Bunny Jam!	October	Halloween at Williams Park
May	Memorial Day Ceremony	November	Veterans Day
July	Independence Day Fireworks	December	Tree Lighting
August	Week of the People		

For Special Event program questions contact:
Mayra L. Jimenez, Recreation Program Coordinator
Mayra.Jimenez@franklinnj.gov
732-873-2500, x6340



Register: <https://franklintwp.recreation.com> 4



Forever 55 Active Adult Programs

Open to residents ages 55+ ♦ Online registration required @ franklintwp.recdesk.com

All in-person programs take place at the Community/Senior Center, 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset.

While it is our hope that we will be able to offer the programs listed below,

it is important to note that we may revise or cancel any or all programs due to COVID restrictions.

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS (VISIT OUR REGISTRATION WEBSITE FOR START DATES)

Functional Fitness	Mondays	2:15 PM-3:15 PM	Fee Required
Functional Fitness	Thursdays	11:00-12:00 PM	Fee Required
Pilates	Thursdays	12:15-1:15 PM	Fee Required
Indoor Pickleball	Thursdays	3:00-4:30 PM	Fee Required
Gentle Mat Yoga	Fridays	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Fee Required
Chair Yoga	Fridays	10:15 AM-11:15 AM	Fee Required
Tai Chi Beginners	Fridays	11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Fee Required
Tai Chi Beyond Beginners	Fridays	12:15 PM-1:15 PM	Fee Required
Healthy Bones	Thursdays	10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Fee Required

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Chair Yoga	Tuesdays	11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Fee Required
Hatha Yoga	Thursdays	11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Fee Required
Sit and B Fit	Mondays-Wednesdays	9:30 AM-10:00 AM	FREE
Healthy Bones	Fridays	9:30 AM-10:30 AM	FREE
Mindful Self Compassion	Various Dates	Various Dates	FREE

Franklin HI Steppers Dance Group: Open to residents ages 55 and older. This tap dance troupe entertain locally and practice at the Community/Senior Center on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 AM. No experience necessary. Tap shoes are required.

Swingin' Singin' Seniors: Open to residents ages 55 and older. This chorus group entertains locally and practice at the Community/Senior Center on Fridays at 1:30 PM. All levels welcome. 55+ and caregivers. Must register online in advance. Login sent to registered participants prior to the start of class.

SENIOR CITIZEN CLUBS (IN-PERSON START DATES TO BE DETERMINED)

Open to residents ages 55+. These clubs meet at the Community/Senior Center, 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset. Members enjoy weekly meetings, parties, bingo, and events. There is a small yearly registration fee to become a member of each club. See a club membership rep for details. Join one or all three clubs!

Parkside Senior Citizens Club	Mondays	10:30 AM
Franklin Township Senior Citizens Club	Tuesdays	10:00 AM
Franklin Park Senior Citizens Club	Wednesdays	12:00 PM

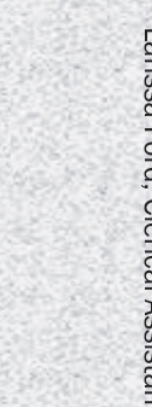
For Forever 55 Active Adult program questions contact:
Marianne Regan, Senior Citizen Program Coordinator
Marianne.Regan@franklinnj.gov
732-873-2500 x6347



Register: <https://franklintwp.recdesk.com> 5

Parks & Recreation Department

Beau Byrtus, Director of Parks & Recreation	Sharene Davenport, Youth Center Manager
Windy White, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation	Tony Taveras, Youth Center Manager
Marianne Regan, Senior Citizen Program Coordinator	Mawiyah Holliman, Youth Center Program Coordinator
Gloria Fidecaro, Recreation Program Coordinator	Joel Pairison, Youth Center Program Coordinator
Mayra L. Jimenez, Recreation Program Coordinator	Stephanie Williams, Youth Center Office Coordinator
Mona Reilly, Therapeutic Program Coordinator	Tony Morgan, Youth Center Program Assistant
Patricia Daniel, Recreation Staff	Joe Jankowski, Youth Center Program Assistant
Jordyn Williams, Recreation Staff	Terence Brown, Safety Liaison
	Larissa Ford, Clerical Assistant



RECREATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In case of inclement weather, announcements regarding cancellations will be available by calling (732) 873-1991 & press Option 1. If schools close due to inclement weather, all programs held at schools are automatically cancelled.
INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING: We welcome individuals with or without disabilities to participate in all recreation programs and activities. In accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact us to discuss any modifications needed for you or your child's successful participation in programs.
MAKE-UPS: Make-ups are only offered for programs cancelled by the Recreation Dept. due to weather or other circumstances. In some instances, credits will be issued in lieu of makeup classes. Make-ups are not given for absences.
FEES: ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED UPON REGISTRATION. Program fees are not prorated for late registrations. RESIDENCY: All fees listed are for Township residents. The Recreation Dept. reserves the right to limit registrations to Township residents for any programs. Non-residents may enroll in a program 7 days prior to program start date and at double the listed fee.
REFUNDS/CREDITS: No refunds/credits will be given after a program begins. Refunds will only be approved if: 1. Recreation Dept. cancels an activity; 2. A written request is received at least 7 days prior to the start of the program; 3. A medical issue arises which will require submitting a doctor's note for consideration.
FEES REDUCTIONS: Income guidelines are established for fee reductions for certain Recreation programs. Call the Recreation Office for information.
EMAIL: Email is used for program confirmations and communications. Please note that Franklin Recreation does not share e-mail addresses.



Stay in touch with happenings in Franklin & follow us on our social media platforms!



Franklin Township Parks & Recreation

Community/Senior Center
505 DeMott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday,
8:30am-4:30pm
732-873-1991, Option 4
Email: franklinrec@franklinnj.gov

Website:
www.franklintwpnj.org/rec
Facebook:
[@FranklinTownshipParksRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/FranklinTownshipParksRecreation)

Editor, Mayra L. Jimenez

SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations run independently of the Recreation Department and administer their own programs:

Franklin Township Soccer Club/Top Soccer (Special Needs)	www.franklinsoccer.com
Franklin Twp. Baseball League	732-649-8068
www.ftblbaseball.com / ftblsomerset@gmail.com	
FT/So. Bound Brook Little League	732-469-7761
www.leagueineup.com / ftsbitttleleague.com	
Pop Warner Football/Cheerleading	
www.ftpw.org / ftpwjn@gmail.com	609-395-9167
Adult Slo-Pitch Softball	



SCAN WITH YOUR DEVICE TO REGISTER ONLINE!



Register: <https://franklintwp.recdesk.com> 6

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

RECYCLING INFORMATION

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
CONVENIENCE CENTER**
(corner of School Ave. & Berry St.)
732-249-7800 ext. 6290

Franklin Township Website:
<https://www.franklintwpnj.org>

PLACES TO PURCHASE A PASS:

You must be resident of Franklin Township to purchase a pass. Driver's license required for proof of residency.

Public Works Building

40 Churchill Ave.
Monday thru Friday: 7:00am – 2:45pm

Township Clerk's Office

475 DeMott Lane
Monday thru Friday: 8:30am-4:30pm

TRIP PASS FEES

Car: \$15.00 per trip/ 6 trips for \$75.00
Description – has 1 or 2 seats with a trunk

**Station Wagon/SUV/Crossover/Mini Van
\$35.00 per trip/6 trips for \$175.00**

Description: A vehicle with a factory-installed rear bench seat or captain chairs, upright and in place, directly behind the driver's seat and has a cargo area.

**Passenger Van/Cargo Van
\$65.00 per trip/ 6 trips for \$325.00**

Passenger Van

Description: A vehicle designed, modified, or otherwise capable of being configured to carry not less than 8 passengers and no more than 15 passengers, including the driver.

Cargo Van

Description: A vehicle that has space for two passengers and the remaining area is used to haul cargo

Trailer - \$75.00 per trip – PLUS vehicle fee IF the vehicle has debris
\$75.00 per trip/6 trips for \$375.00

Description: No longer than 8 feet; no closed in trailers

NOT ALLOWED

Rack Body/Flat Bed/Dump Truck/Cube Van/
Closed in Trailers

NO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ALLOWED

TRIP PASS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

Household items to include furniture, old toys, rugs, etc., appliances (refrigerators; freezers; air conditioners dehumidifiers require an additional fee
\$15.00 per freon appliance (drop off only)
\$7.00 per tire (All tires)

NO PASS REQUIRED

Newspaper; Cardboard; Metal cans; Glass Bottles; Light Metal; Motor Oil; Appliances (washers; dryers; stoves; ovens; dishwashers; hot water heaters) Recyclable electronics; Brush – Shrub trimmings, hedge clippings

Branches – no larger than 4" in diameter and/or 4 feet in length

Leaves – must be in biodegradable bags (**leaves cannot be dumped out of bags**)

NOT ACCEPTED / NOT ALLOWED

Renovation / construction Material / Debris – sheetrock; tile; concrete; brick; asphalt; rocks, etc. **

Railroad ties or treated wood

Household garbage; food waste; cooking oil

Hazardous materials – pesticides; oil paint; chemicals

Propane Tanks**

**Note: Somerset County holds five Household Hazardous Waste Days each year (See schedule under Somerset County)

LARGE METAL APPLIANCE PICKUP

Freon appliances - **\$25.00 each for pickup**

Washers; dryers; hot water heaters; stoves; ovens - **\$10.00 each for pickup**

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MEDICINE DROP-OFF

Residents can dispose of unwanted, expired or unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs in the drop-off box located in the lobby of the **Franklin Township Public Safety Building at 495 DeMott Lane.**

SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLING SCHEDULE CURBSIDE PICKUP

(732) 469-3363

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle.html>

IMPORTANT: Please place materials at curbside the night before your collection day.

SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH DROP-OFF:

SOCIAL DISTANCING IS REQUIRED: Residents must wear facial coverings. Occupants should remain in their vehicles, but staff will be available at every station to help residents remove items.)

8:00am – 2:00pm

(Electronic Waste is not accepted at the Center)

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

1st Saturday drop-offs: 8:00am – 2:00pm located at 410 Roycefield Rd., Hillsborough, NJ 08844.

MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

Sharp needles and other similar medical waste should never be recycled.

Needles and syringes can be dropped off at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset located at 110 Rehill Ave. in Somerville, NJ Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 5pm.

Call (908) 685-2200 for more additional information on the Safe Syringe Disposal Program.

POLYSTYRENE PACKING PEANUTS

Polystyrene packing peanuts can be taken to your local **MAIL BOXES ETC., POSTNET OR UPS** stores, where they will be reused in future packing shipments.

SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLING HOW-TO GUIDE



How To Prepare	Acceptable Items
<p>NEWSPAPERS Newspapers must be bundled and tied with string or twine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper Inserts that come w/newspapers, such as comics, glossy coupons, TV/magazine sections & colored food/store ads
<p>GLASS BOTTLES, ALL PLASTIC BOTTLES & CONTAINERS (#1 - #7), STEEL, BIMETAL & ALUMINUM CANS These items should be rinsed thoroughly and placed inside your recycling bucket. Only the items listed at right are acceptable. Crush all plastic bottles to save space. Remove caps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass bottles (all colors) Glass jars (all colors) Steel cans Bimetal cans Aluminum cans All plastic bottles and containers #1 - #7 NO STYROFOAM* <p>#1 - #7 Examples: Water, soda, milk, juice, soap, detergent, bleach, shampoo and cleaning-agent bottles. You may also include peanut butter, yogurt and diaper-wipe containers, margarine tubs, and clear plastic clamshell containers from restaurant salad bars.</p>
<p>OTHER PAPER/JUNK MAIL Other paper should be placed in a brown paper bag or cardboard box and placed next to your blue bucket. <i>Shredded paper must be in clear or labeled plastic bags.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magazines Writing/school paper All envelopes Copy paper Paperback books Hardcover books w/hard covers removed Catalogs Phone books Store fliers w/ mailing labels Office paper Non-metallic gift wrap Greeting cards Shredded paper
<p>CORRUGATED CARDBOARD, CHIPBOARD & PIZZA BOXES Corrugated cardboard must be cut into 2 ft. x 2 ft. squares and tied with string or twine. Please include pizza boxes & chipboard with corrugated cardboard. Place tied bundle (pizza boxes, chipboard & cardboard) next to your recycling bucket.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrugated cardboard Pizza boxes (clean!) Brown bags Chipboard boxes including: cereal, cookie, pasta, cake, cracker, detergent (remove plastic liners), gift, shoe, shirt and any retail boxes. Poster board & backing from writing pads also accepted. Tissue boxes Paper towel rolls

If you are aware of any multifamily complex or business that is not recycling, or if you see a garbage hauler mix previously separated recyclables and garbage, please call the Somerset County Health Department at 908-231-7155. They conduct inspections of these locations and haulers to ensure recycling requirements are being followed.

RECYCLING INFORMATION

Franklin Township

January 13, 27	July 14, 28
February 10, 24	August 11, 25
March 10, 24	September 8, 22
April 7, 21	October 6, 20
May 5, 19	November 3, 17
June 2, 16, 30	December 1, 15, 29

Franklin Park - Griggstown

January 14, 28	July 1, 15, 29
February 11, 25	August 12, 26
March 11, 25	September 9, 23
April 8, 22	October 7, 21
May 6, 20	November 4, 18
June 3, 17	December 2, 16, 30



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

2301 Route 27
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 873-2400

A Message from Dr. John A. Ravally, Superintendent of Franklin Township Public Schools

As we close out the fall semester, I would like to take this opportunity to commend our staff, as well as our students, and their families, for their commitment and flexibility. Our school community has worked together to continuously overcome the challenges of the pandemic and I am proud to say our students are now enjoying and benefitting from full day in-person learning.

In this issue, we feature articles that touch on the district's response to the pandemic, including a recent vaccination clinic, and a look at how COVID-19 has created a new normal in our Fine, Visual, and Performing Arts Program. We celebrate the accomplishments of Franklin Middle School @ the Hamilton Street Campus in the area of sustainability. We recognize our Educators of the Year from the 2020-2021 school year and highlight two administrators who will be retiring this year. We welcome a new Principal to Conerly Road School and take a look at a special program from the Franklin Township Community Relations Bureau involving our district students.

I look forward to the Spring semester and the continued opportunities it will bring to our students and encourage you to visit our website at www.franklinboe.org to learn more about our district and our wonderful programs. On behalf of the staff and students of Franklin Township Public Schools, our best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year!

FT Police Officers and Franklin Students Serve Up Some Food, and Mutual Understanding

In early November of 2021, the families of some Franklin students gathered at the Stage House Tavern for a meal. Certainly not a rare occurrence, but what set this meal apart was it had been prepared by their children and a Township police detective as the final lesson in the Community Relations Bureau's Cooking with Cops Program.

Cooking with Cops is one of several programs designed to allow the police department to serve its community on a more inter-personal level and allow its officers to develop relationships with Franklin youth. While the pandemic slowed the implementation of this Program down a bit, Detective Altwain Burwell has recently been able to share his culinary expertise with eight students from Franklin Township Public Schools, and other schools, over a seven-week period. Most of the classes for this cycle of the program were held in the culinary arts classroom of Franklin High School.

"We began the program with safety classes, moved on to salads, then pasta dishes and had one week where we focused on breakfast," explained Detective Burwell, whose previous assignment as a Safety Resource Officer at Franklin High School, as well as his love of cooking and experience as a caterer, make him uniquely qualified for this program. He gives the students tools through simple recipes to let them create their own versions of dishes such as macaroni and cheese and chicken parmigiana. The students eat what they have prepared at the end of the class or take the dish home to share it with their families.

But what comes out of the kitchen is more than food. As the weeks of the program continue, students and the police officers involved become more comfortable with each other. "I learn everyone's name as the weeks go by and create teams so all of the students can get to know each other," said Detective Burwell. Students begin to see the police officers involved as not just law enforcement, but as members of the community. As one student put it, "I was intimidated by the police and saw them as authority figures who protect. Until the program, I didn't see the other aspects of being a police officer, like community service."

Additional community connections for this program include gift card donations from local supermarkets and the use of a local restaurant for the final class. A representative from the restaurant was able to speak to the student's families during the meal and encouraged them to pass on their own family recipes to their children, taking advantage of sharing that intergenerational link. He was also able to give advice to those students who might wish to pursue the culinary arts as a profession.

Cooking with Cops will be featured in a segment of Focus on Franklin, the school district's video magazine. Other Community Relations Bureau programs, including the Public Safety Cadet Program, will be hosted at Franklin High School soon.

Board of Education Meetings are generally held once a month at 7:30 pm in the Community Center of the Board of Education Administrative Campus, 2301 Route 27, Somerset, NJ 08873. Questions or comments about the Board of Education may be addressed to the current Board President at nlacorte@franklinboe.org

For More News on Our Schools Check Out Our Video Newsmagazine



Available on Our District
Website www.franklinboe.org

Information for Parents/ Guardians of Children Who Are Experiencing Delays



Project CHILD FIND is a program from the NJ Department of Education to assist in the identification of unserved or underserved youth, from birth through age 21, with a delay or disability. Call 1-800-322-8174 for more information on Project CHILD FIND.

Franklin Township Public Schools provides, through its Department of Pupil Personnel Services, educational services to students who have been identified as having educationally debilitating conditions.

If you are a resident of Franklin Township and suspect that your child is having learning difficulties or if a health care provider has indicated that your child should be evaluated, please contact the **Department of Pupil Personnel Services** 2301 Route 27, Somerset, New Jersey 08873. 732-873-2400 Ext. 203.



Message from Board of Education President, Nancy LaCorte

I write this message as we enter the Holiday Season and prepare for 2022. We will begin the year with our annual reorganization meeting at which we will swear in one veteran Board member, Mrs. Laurie Merris and welcome two new Board members, Dr. Dennis Hopkins, Jr. and Mr. Sami Shaban. I am excited to continue my service on the Board of Education and look forward to celebrating our amazing staff and students.



Franklin Township Board of Education members Merris, Hopkins and Shaban

We recently celebrated our Educators of the Year from the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 classes. I was proud to help recognize their accomplishments. Let me share a few things this group of 39 professionals had in common. They are dedicated, with an average of 12 years with our district. They are creative, having navigated teaching and learning during a pandemic, in fully remote and hybrid settings, utilizing various platforms and navigating new safety protocols. They are inspired, some citing their educator parents as influences, many others having found their calling through a teacher of their own. They are team players, they speak of collaboration, being friends with their peers and advocates for their students, recognizing mentors and becoming ones themselves. They love children, finding joy in working with them and finding satisfaction in their careers. They meet all their students where they are, even in a virtual world. We are very proud of them.

We are also proud of the way our students and their families are navigating the return to in-person learning. Students are back, participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. Our Unified Bowling and Cheer Teams are gearing up for their winter seasons and for the first time FHS will offer an ESports team, pairing students with special needs and general education students in the competitive video game arena. Our performing arts students are preparing for upcoming performances as well. Students are serving on the district Safe Return Committee and take turns reporting out at our Board meetings as student liaisons. We look forward to highlighting some of our students' accomplishments at our upcoming meetings.

Members of the public are always welcome to attend our Board meetings, which typically take place on the third Thursday of the month. You can also remain informed about the district by visiting the website at www.franklinboe.org or checking out our Franklin Warrior News YouTube Channel.

As the calendar year ends, I would like to thank our outgoing Board members, Ms. Patricia Stanley and Mr. Ed Potosnak for their service. Serving as a Board of Education member is a voluntary position and a great responsibility. On behalf of the rest of the Board members, I wish them well. The Board extends its best wishes to all in the Franklin Township Public Schools and larger Township Community for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with promise. As always, thank you for your support.



FMS@HSC GREEN TEAM EARNS SILVER CERTIFICATION, THE DIGITAL STAR AWARD AND A GRANT FROM SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS



Green Team members of Franklin Middle School @ the Hamilton Street Campus were recently recognized by Sustainable Jersey for Schools for not only earning Silver Certification and being part of the inaugural group of schools to earn the new Digital Schools Star Award, but as recipients of a grant from the organization, funded by PSE&G.

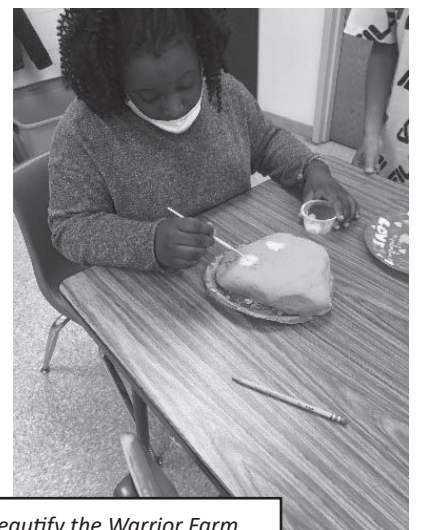
The Sustainable Jersey for Schools program, established by Sustainable Jersey, an organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs, celebrates schools from across New Jersey. MacAfee Road School earned bronze certification under this program in the past, but FMS@HSC is the first to earn the more difficult silver certification and the new Digital Schools Star award.

“We are very excited and proud of the continued efforts that the Green Team of Franklin Middle School at the Hamilton Street Campus have made to achieve silver certification this year. They are leading the district toward its goal of having each school achieve Sustainable Jersey certification,” said Dr. John Ravally, Superintendent of Franklin Township Public Schools. “We are especially pleased that they are also being recognized for their commitment to preparing our students for college and career readiness with the Digital Schools Star Award.”

A Digital Schools Star embraces the mindful implementation of effective digital learning and communication tools, resources and practices – a commitment that is evident in its mission, culture, classrooms and interactions with its stakeholders. Star schools document their successful digital learning strategies in the action areas of leadership, learning practices, technology access, school culture and climate and student learning in order to qualify for star recognition.

Silver certification is accomplished by tracking the work of the school in the areas of personalized and authentic learning as well as community engagement. Some of team’s green projects included seed cultivation and art projects featuring recycled materials. “Our Green Team, in fact our entire school community, has really pulled together to work toward our Silver Certification,” said FMS@HSC Principal Torrie Rumph-Hurd, “I am very proud of this accomplishment.”

Members of the team have also begun a Warrior Farm on campus and were successful in securing a \$2,000 grant to continue the work on this permanent, established space, dedicated to social-emotional learning, gardening, environmental awareness, and the arts. Weather permitting, staff are able to access the Warrior Farm for teaching opportunities, and students from the Hamilton Street Campus and the Road to Success Program are able to use the space to find focus and calm. Students and staff began setting up the area last year, building vegetable boxes and decorating rocks. The Board of Education recognized members of the FMS@HSC Green Team at their November 18, 2021 meeting.



Students paint rocks to beautify the Warrior Farm.



Vegetable Boxes at the Warrior Farm.



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DISTRICT EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

2020-2021



Due to the pandemic, the names and descriptions of these dedicated educators were not publicized as we typically do. We would be remiss if we did not recognize them and do so now. Some have subsequently retired, but we thank them for their service and for their commitment to the students of Franklin Township Public Schools.

Annually school districts in New Jersey are invited to name their best and brightest teachers and educational services professionals for recognition at the district, county and ultimately the state level. In the past these programs were called Teacher of the Year Program and the Governor’s Teacher/Educational Services Professionals Recognition Program. Today it is referred to as the Governor’s Educator of the Year Program. The process for this recognition begins early in the school year. Staff are invited to nominate and then a committee chooses two individuals from each school, one a classroom teacher and the other a professional in a support area. These educational services personnel would include a school counselor, special education child study team member, or paraprofessional. Criteria for nomination include expertise in the field; the ability to collaborate with stakeholders to create a strong culture of respect and success, as well as leadership and innovation in educational activities. **We are very proud of our 2020-2021 District Educators of the Year.**

2020-2021 Franklin Township Public Schools (FTPS) - District Educators of the Year

School	Teacher	Educational Services Professional
Franklin High School FHS	Peter DiMarco , Peter has been a high school teacher for 20 years, all of them at FHS. On teaching during the pandemic, “one of the most important parts of teaching is to build relationships with students; to do so in a remote environment was by far the biggest challenge, and I felt like I was able to do so.”	Sheronda Martin, ELA Coach , Subsequent to being named Teacher of the Year, Sheronda was appointed as VP at FHS. Growing up around attorneys, she was preparing to study law when a professor suggested the education field so she could “help people, before they needed an attorney.”
Franklin Middle School @ Hamilton Street Campus HSC	Danielle Bills , in her classroom, Danielle teaches not only reading and writing, but also provides opportunities for students’ social/emotional growth and sense of community as well. From letter writing projects to fundraising events, Danielle helps her students contribute to the larger community in many ways.	Rupal Patel, Paraprofessional has been the education field for 20 years, the last seven at FTPS. She says, “The best part of being an educator is every day is a new day with new experience and with every new experience your skills get better. You’ll get job satisfaction like no other!”
Franklin Middle School @ Sampson G. Smith Campus SGS	Jessica Gonzalez , has subsequently left the district, but had served the students of SGS as a Special Education teacher for grades 6-8 in English Language Arts. She was trained in the Orton-Billingham Approach and utilized multi-sensory strategies to improve her students reading skills.	Dr. Rosemary King, Literacy Coach , Rosemary has since left the district but began her work at FTPS in 2011. She says, “I believe education has the potential to be the great equalizer. All students deserve an education that allows them to pursue their dreams.”
Claremont Elementary School CES	Pamela Lack, Special Education , Pam has worked for FTPS since 2013. As a student she volunteered in a Special Education classroom and knew then that “when she grew up” she wanted to be a teacher. She says this about teaching, “The kids who need the most love will ask for it in the most unloving ways.”	Maribeth Virzi, School Nurse , has been a nurse in FTPS since 2017. She says, “Over the course of the pandemic, I witnessed many families experience financial hardship, lose loved ones, and navigate remote learning. I am most proud I was able to provide help and support to our CES community during these difficult times.”
Conerly Road School CRS	Joy Kuchinsky , has been with the district for over 18 years, most of them at CRS. She started working in the field of Special Education when she was just 15 years old. She chose this career because she enjoys instilling knowledge in young minds by opening the doors of learning.	<i>No Educational Services Professional was nominated for the 2020-2021 School Year at CRS.</i>
Elizabeth Avenue School EAS	Jessica Horner , says, “Teaching is where I found my confidence, and I instantly knew it was where I would be able to make the greatest impact.” She especially loves working with the most diverse populations because being a part of their journey to reach their milestones and overcome their challenges is incredibly rewarding.	Judy Lapczynski , has been with the district for over 16 years, many of them at EAS. She is very proud to have been able to navigate through the virtual environment during the pandemic. “I do believe the children benefit by being in person but their perseverance made the adjustment all the more worthwhile.”
Franklin Park School FPS	Joanna Crespo , has been a 2nd and 4th grade teacher at FTPS. She describes a great teacher as someone who is good at explaining content, is patient, yet firm with students, is always fair, sets high expectations, and knows how to motivate students.	Louise Ahern, Paraprofessional , has been a para with FTPS for over six years working mostly with preschool students. “It is so rewarding to watch them grow socially and emotionally and develop a love of learning,” she says.
Hillcrest School HIL	Jared Sheffrin , since earning this honor, Jared has become VP at FMS@SGS. “Ever since I was a child, I have wanted to be a teacher. Growing up and going through the Franklin School system I always knew this is a place where I wanted to be.” A favorite quote of his, “Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.” - Babe Ruth	Denise Solovay, Literacy Coach Denise has been with FTPS since 2011. Her teaching experience started much earlier, “Since my early days in elementary school, I’d take what I had learned during the school day and come right home and teach it all to my younger brother,” she says.
MacAfee Road School MAC	Katheryn (Kate) Freeman , has been a teacher in FTPS for over six years. She loves helping students grow and maintaining relationships with those who have left her class. Her classroom is a place where students’ SEL needs are met, and where former students often come visit.	Louise Velez, Paraprofessional , has worked for the district for 19 years. She chose education because of her empathy for children. Louise recalls former First Lady Hillary Clinton saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Louise has wanted to be part of that village.
Pine Grove Manor School PGM	Cynthia Gasper, Bilingual Program , been a teacher with FTPS for over nine years and has wanted to be a teacher since she was very young. She says about this last year, “Teaching through the pandemic was something I thought would never be possible or could be accomplished with success. But I was amazed at how well we all adapted and changed.”	Janet Timari, Paraprofessional , has been with FTPS since 2018. She has spent most of her time in the district as a para in the Resource Room at PGM. This school year, she was transferred to CES. Janet loves being a paraprofessional, positively supporting our community and truly making a difference in the lives of others.

The School District Continues Its Pandemic Response

Since March of 2020, Franklin Township Public Schools has continuously responded to the Covid-19 Pandemic and resultant Executive Orders by adjusting how curriculum is delivered; how extracurricular activities are offered and meals are provided to students; how district facilities are cleaned; how positive cases are tracked, acted upon and reported; and how testing and vaccination opportunities are presented.



Township students were vaccinated at a recent clinic

Some of the more recent updates to these include the weekly testing of unvaccinated staff members by the state approved company Mirimus, and a vaccination clinic for children ages five to eleven, held at the Hamilton Street Campus of Franklin Middle School in conjunction with the County Prosecutors Office and the Somerset County Department of Health.

“We continue to have a very productive relationship with the Somerset County Department of Health and have relied upon their advice and expertise in creating the district’s isolation and testing protocols, as well as the vaccination opportunities we have been able to offer our staff and students,” said Dr. Brenda Sofield, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Recently, at the first vaccination clinic for elementary students, 271 children were provided the Pfizer vaccine. While there was trepidation on the part of some, and a few tears, the process went smoothly and most families were excited for the chance to protect their children. Franklin Township Public Schools was the first in the county to host a vaccination clinic of this size for this age group. The school district also continues to work with the Township in providing a location for reoccurring Covid-19 testing and Covid-19 and flu vaccination opportunities.

Further information on the district’s current response to Covid-19 can be found on the district website, look for the Road Forward Policy, Covid-19 Protocols and headlines for testing and vaccination events.

Conerly Road School Welcomes A New Principal – Says Farewell to a Veteran Educator

“I want to work in Franklin,” David Heras, newly appointed Principal of Conerly Road School recalls thinking after listening to a guest lecturer in college. The speaker, a teacher at FTPS, “spoke about the need for teachers to be problem solvers and positive influencers who come up with new ideas to help students.” He spoke so passionately about his work that Mr. Heras knew he wanted to work for the district. And so he did.



Starting as a Franklin High School English teacher in 1989, Mr. Heras has also served as a literacy coach and most recently as the Supervisor of Elementary LAL, Academic Support and Enrichment. The successful re-creation of the elementary Enrichment Program was due, in large part, to the vision and dedication of Mr. Heras. He too is passionate about teaching and believing that every child can learn.

That passion will surely help as he takes over as the instructional leader of Conerly Road School in January of 2022. Stepping aside at that time will be Acting Principal Ms. Eileen Brett, a retired administrator who had been filling in for CRS Principal Dr. Donna Silva Burnett, who will be retiring at the end of 2021.

Dr. Burnett has a long history with FTPS having served the district for 42 years and as the leader of CRS for the last 15 years. In fact, Dr. Burnett served as Mr. Heras’ first Vice Principal in the district and as his mentor when he pursued his Principal certificate.

Dr. Burnett says she has, “enjoyed every moment” of her Principalship at CRS and credits the support she has had from the students, staff and larger community for the “phenomenal journey” that her career at FTPS has been. Does she have any advice for her former mentee? “Develop a strong school leadership team,” advises Dr. Burnett.

What does the future hold for Dr. Burnett? She speaks of traveling and perhaps writing a book. As for CRS, Mr. Heras looks forward to working with the “vibrant students, committed families, hardworking staff and dedicated teachers” there to “start this new chapter in the rich history of Conerly Road School.”

The Show Must Go On – Performing Arts in the Pandemic

Performing Arts in Franklin Township Public Schools plays an important part in the community. The school community gathers annually for the Dance Showcase and Aspects of Video Awards and members of the larger community have often enjoyed Franklin Middle School and Franklin High School musical productions. So how have the dedicated teachers and students in this area adapted to remote learning, physical distancing and masking requirements? By using their creativity, technology, and in some cases, taking their work outside.

“The FHS Dance Program was able to produce two fully virtual concerts. The teachers and students learned new technology skills and had video shoots to record their dances, which were mostly outdoors.” Said Lindsey Della Serra, Ed.M., BFA, PMA-CPT, Dance Educator from FHS. She continues, “We were also able to virtually participate in multiple dance events in NYC and NJ, one being Arts for Autism which was a virtual Broadway event.”

As capacity restrictions were expanded in the spring of 2021, some in person performances took place. FHS and FMS musicals had smaller casts than were typical; limited in person seating and allowed audiences to stream the productions. Cast members have been utilizing special clear masks and wind instruments are protected by bell covers.

“The students and staff were just so happy and grateful to have a performance. We learned that team work makes the dream work for sure!!!” said Terri Seggio, Director of the FMS spring musical, Shrek, “It was incredible for the students, to watch their parents and our alumni parents, doing whatever it took, to safely get our show on its feet.”

Please visit www.franklinboe.org to see this coming year’s Fine Visual and Performing Arts Calendar and information about performances open to the public.



Students wear clear masks during a performance.

Roberta Mitchell Takes Her Curtain Call as the Director of Fine, Visual, Performing and Practical Arts at FTPS

Mrs. Roberta Mitchell has worked for Franklin Township Public Schools since November of 2006. She began her work as a Vice Principal, then the Principal of Franklin Middle School. Mrs. Mitchell made the switch to the central office and was fundamental in the creation of the Road to Success Alternative Education Program. For the past nine years she has been the Director of Fine, Visual, Performing and Practical Arts.



Mrs. Mitchell leads students on the first day of school.

In addition to supervising teachers in grades K-12 in the areas of art, music and dance, she was instrumental in the development of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program at Franklin High School. This program allows students to follow a specific path toward a chosen profession and, through vigorous course work, earn college credits while at FHS. Real world experience is provided through partnerships with local businesses. Dance was the first area in the CTE Program and future areas include Video, Graphic Arts and Health.

Mrs. Mitchell believes the areas she has supervised over the past nine years, “provide students with an opportunity to express themselves artistically, develop, life- long skills, perform to a live audience and develop strong relationships with teachers and students since many of our programs are sequential.” Students in grades Pre-K through twelve are offered Dance, Art and Music. High school and middle school students have the opportunity to study with the same teacher for years.

As for those teachers, Mrs. Mitchell describes them as “passionate about their programs,” and notes that many of them came from the field or are still in their field of study as artisans. This allows them to stay up to date with trends and bring real world experiences to the classroom.

So, what’s next for Mrs. Mitchell in 2022? She has plans to join her husband in retirement, travel and enjoy her grandchildren, but will start by removing all the morning alarms from her cell phone. Her district family wishes her all the best.