



Franklin Township – A Sustainable Jersey Silver Certified Municipality

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## Calling All Franklin Township Restaurants: Join the Culinary Extravaganza & Savor the Benefits at Franklin Township's First Restaurant Week!

*Franklin Township Restaurant Week: October 8-14, 2023*

Prepare your taste buds for an unforgettable experience as Franklin Township proudly announces its very first Restaurant Week! From October 8th through 14th, our vibrant Township, renowned for its diversity, will transform into a culinary playground. With an open invitation to all Franklin Township restaurants, this event promises a week-long celebration of mouthwatering flavors and cultural fusion. Participation is completely free and open to all Franklin Township restaurants. Get ready to tantalize taste buds, create community connections, and elevate your restaurant's reputation like never before!

A hub of diversity situated in the heart of New Jersey, Franklin Township stands as a shining example of cultural diversity and inclusivity. A melting pot of traditions, Franklin boasts a dynamic culinary landscape that embodies the flavors of various cultures from around the world. From charming family-owned eateries to trendy fusion restaurants, the Township's dining scene caters to all palates, making it the perfect host for its inaugural Restaurant Week. Customers can eat globally while dining locally!



Local restaurants, Franklin Township Restaurant Week is a chance to unleash your creativity, presenting signature dishes that reflect the unique flavors and traditions of your establishment. It's an opportunity to engage with the community, excite taste buds, and forge a loyal following of gastronomy enthusiasts. This is your moment to showcase your culinary prowess and captivate a wider audience.

**What is Franklin Township Restaurant Week?** The week-long event highlights featured local restaurants which offer assorted menu specials to patrons. By joining this culinary extravaganza, you open doors to a myriad of benefits that will leave a lasting impact on your establishment and your patrons. Take advantage of this chance to capture the attention of both residents and visitors who are on the hunt for delightful dining experiences.

**How can my restaurant participate?** Your restaurant must be located in Franklin Township in order to participate in Restaurant Week. Once you've decided on the menu special you'd like to offer participating customers, simply scan the QR code for the application to join or log on to [Franklintwp.org/RestaurantWeek](http://Franklintwp.org/RestaurantWeek) for more information. Menu specials can include prix fixe menus, percentage discounts (10% and above), BOGO specials, free appetizers/desserts, drink specials, and more! Remember, the more attractive the offer, the more likely customers are to patronize your establishment.

**How does Restaurant Week benefit my business?** Participation in Franklin Township Restaurant Week engages potential and current customers with added incentives to try your restaurant for the first time or continue their patronage. Beyond this, restaurateurs are able to showcase their establishments, leading to increased traffic, additional revenue, and free exposure to Franklin's nearly 70,000 residents. By participating, you become part of a collective effort to celebrate Franklin Township food establishments and its rich culinary culture.

**How will the Township help promote my restaurant?** The Township is committed to supporting local businesses. Participating restaurants will be featured on the Township website, print, and social media outlets ensuring maximum visibility and further enticing food enthusiasts to discover your delectable offerings. The event will also be publicized through press releases, Somerset County Tourism, and short video reels highlighting some of the featured participating restaurants. Restaurants will also receive promotional material to prominently display within their establishments, designating them as an official Franklin Township Restaurant Week restaurant. Potential customers will receive notifications advertising the event and be encouraged to post and tweet about their experience at your establishment, all in an effort to establish a surge of followers, likes, and shares that will amplify your restaurant's reach.

So, Franklin Township restaurateurs, mark your calendars for October 8th to 14th and embark on a culinary adventure that will captivate the palate, promote your restaurant's brand, and contribute to the vibrancy of this diverse municipality. Don't miss out on this chance to shine the spotlight on your restaurant and share your passion with the world. Join Franklin Township Restaurant Week today!

**Still have a few more questions?** Contact Saffie Kallon, Special Projects Manager at [Special.Projects@franklinnj.gov](mailto:Special.Projects@franklinnj.gov) or call 732.873.2500, ext. 6427. Additional information on the event is also available at [Franklintwpnj.org/RestaurantWeek](http://Franklintwpnj.org/RestaurantWeek).



## Franklin Youth Center Celebrates Its 1-Year Anniversary

On May 20th the Franklin Youth Center celebrated its First Year Anniversary with special guest, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.

The program kicked off with remarks from Township officials, Mayor Phillip Kramer and Councilwoman Kimberly Francois followed by guest speaker Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. The Congresswoman continues to be an ongoing champion of Franklin Township which includes a previously awarded \$1million Community Project Funding grant to integrate construction enhancements for the Youth Center. During her remarks the Congresswoman praised the community and center staff for their impactful dedication to Franklin youth and expressed her commitment to address the critical needs of New Jersey families.

Parks & Recreation Deputy Director Windy White and Youth Center managers, Tony Taveras and Mawiyah Holliman were introduced by Franklin students who helped present recognition plaques to key youth center partners. Partner honorees included the Links Incorporated Central NJ and Raritan NJ chapters, the Franklin Food Bank, the Canal Walk Men's Club and Amazon.

The festivities also included complimentary refreshments and giveaways made possible by event sponsors PNC Bank, the Mozzarella Italian & Mexican Food Restaurant, the Rapid Relief Team, and Daniela Event Design & Party Rental.

The public ceremony closed with final remarks of appreciation and an announcement of the Youth Center employee of the year, Lorraine Thompson. Ms. Thompson serves as a safety liaison for the center and is a highly dedicated staff who consistently ensures center operations are secure and youth are fully engaged.

The anniversary celebrations concluded with an afternoon Youth Festival which included games, activities resources presentations and complimentary food for youth center members.

Franklin Youth Center membership is free, and open to Franklin students in grades six to twelve. Parents may contact the Center for more information at (732)873-7292 and register for membership and programs at [www.FranklinTwp.RecDesk.com](http://www.FranklinTwp.RecDesk.com)



Councilwoman Kimberly Francois introduces special guest speaker, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman



Youth Center staff pose for a group photo during festivities

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901  
PERMIT NO. 1265

**POSTAL CUSTOMER  
ECRWSS**

Franklin Times  
475 DeMott Lane  
Somerset, NJ 08873



# MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

## POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE EMERGENCIES DIAL

# 9-1-1

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergencies .... 732-873-2300

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

Main ..... 732-873-2500

Extensions

Animal Control ..... 6255

Assessor ..... 6320

Clerk (Elections, Dog Licenses,

Voter Registration) ..... 6208

Construction Code

Enforcement 6220 or 732-873-7283

Collector

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

Community Resource ..... 6310

Court ..... 6268 or 732-873-7285

Economic Development ..... 6274

Engineering ..... 6230

Fire Prevention..... 6303

Health Complaint 24/7 ..... 6370

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

Youth Center ..... 732-873-7292

Zoning Officer..... 6271

Zoning Bd. of Adj. .... 6215

### WEBSITE

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

### TOWN HALL

732-873-2500

### E-MAIL

#### Township Manager

[Bob.Vornlocker@franklinnj.gov](mailto:Bob.Vornlocker@franklinnj.gov)

#### Franklin Times

[Franklin.Times@franklinnj.gov](mailto:Franklin.Times@franklinnj.gov)

#### Collector of Revenue

[Rossana.Gutierrez@franklinnj.gov](mailto:Rossana.Gutierrez@franklinnj.gov)

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

#### Board of Education

732-873-2400

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

#### Library

732-873-8700

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

#### Sewerage Authority

732-873-2121

[Ftsa-nj.org](http://Ftsa-nj.org)

#### Health Department/Education

908-231-7155

### SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

[Facebook.com/townshipoffranklin](https://www.facebook.com/townshipoffranklin)

[Facebook.com/FTPDSomersetNJ](https://www.facebook.com/FTPDSomersetNJ)

[Twitter.com/twpoffranklin](https://twitter.com/twpoffranklin)

[Twitter.com/FTPDSomersetNJ](https://twitter.com/FTPDSomersetNJ)

## Mark Your Calendar



JUNE 9	Summer Kick Off Concert
JUNE 24	Youth Festival
JULY 3 (Rain date: July 7)	Independence Day Fireworks
JULY 7	Blood Drive
JULY 30	Walk & Roll North
AUGUST 27	Walk & Roll South
AUGUST 1	National Night Out
AUGUST 4	Blood Drive
AUGUST 12, 13 & 19	Week of the People Series

## welcome NEW HIRES

Maria Dueñas  
Christopher Tice  
Owen Lennon  
Emily Gonzalez  
Ricardo Pierre  
Matthew Galan  
Tyrell Judson  
Justin Scott  
Marcus Rountree  
Joseph Jankowski  
Abdul-Aziz Oudeh  
Kelly Charlot

Therapeutic Program Coord.  
DPW Laborer  
DPW Laborer  
Police Officer  
Police Officer  
Zoning Officer  
Police Officer  
Police Officer  
Police Officer  
Recreation Program Coord.  
Police Officer  
911 Telecommunicator

## thank you RETIREES

Jeanne Campbell  
Vincent Lupo  
Mark Reiner

911 Telecommunicator  
Construction Official  
Sr. Lieutenant

30 Years  
19 Years  
24 Years



Franklin Township, NJ

# 2\*0\*2\*3

## All-America City Finalist

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

Our great Township has been named an All-America City 2023 Finalist!! Each year since 1949, the National Civic League recognizes twenty finalists throughout the country, awarding ten of those communities with the prestigious All-America City Award. This year's theme is "Creating Thriving Communities through Youth Engagement." In June, members of the Police Department will travel to Denver, Colorado, to present their application to the jury panel. They will talk about Franklin's commitment to its youth while highlighting the Police Department's Community Relations Bureau's Citizen's Academy, Cooking with Cops, and Franklin Fit programs. Good luck, Franklin Police Department!



JULY 7, 2023

AUGUST 4, 2023

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FRANKLIN TWP. MUNICIPAL BUILDING

475 DeMOTT LANE, SOMERSET, NJ

Franklin Township Senior Clubs Present

# BINGO

THURSDAY 07.06.23 12PM  
Doors Open at 11:30 am  
Admission: \$1.00 Bingo Cards: \$1.00  
Open to Ages 55+  
Franklin Twp. Community Senior Center  
505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

EAST MILLSTONE FIRST AID SQUAD  
FREE EMT TRAINING

While EMS training has changed over the years, the need for more volunteers to help answer 911 calls in our community has not changed. Our members, all of whom feel the need to help others, come from diverse careers, backgrounds and cultures, ranging from 16 years old to retirees. If you have a desire to help others, call us. You can become a member, too. We offer Free CPR and EMT Training to our members. All you need to provide is time.

Check out our website for further info:

[www.emfas52.org](http://www.emfas52.org).

Contact us at:

[info@emfas52.org](mailto:info@emfas52.org) or 732-873-8882

## FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Name	Term Expires
Phillip Kramer, Mayor ..... <a href="mailto:mayor.kramer@franklinnj.gov">mayor.kramer@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2023 732-675-7912
Kimberly Francois, Councilwoman, At-Large ..... <a href="mailto:councilwoman.francois@franklinnj.gov">councilwoman.francois@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2023 732-829-8258
Crystal Pruitt, Councilwoman, At-Large ..... <a href="mailto:councilwoman.pruitt@franklinnj.gov">councilwoman.pruitt@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2023 848-202-3062
Ram Anbarasan, Councilman, At-Large, Deputy Mayor ..... <a href="mailto:councilman.ram@franklinnj.gov">councilman.ram@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2023 908-581-3188
Ed Potosnak, Councilmember, 1st Ward ..... <a href="mailto:councilmember.potosnak@franklinnj.gov">councilmember.potosnak@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2025 732-745-1866
Shepa Uddin, Councilwoman, 2nd Ward ..... <a href="mailto:councilwoman.uddin@franklinnj.gov">councilwoman.uddin@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2025 732-857-6339
Charles Onyejiaka, Councilman, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward ..... <a href="mailto:councilman.onyejiaka@franklinnj.gov">councilman.onyejiaka@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2025 908-507-7832
Carl R. A. Wright, Councilman, 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward ..... <a href="mailto:councilman.wright@franklinnj.gov">councilman.wright@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2025 908-612-6393
James Vassanella, Councilman, 5th Ward ..... <a href="mailto:councilman.vassanella@franklinnj.gov">councilman.vassanella@franklinnj.gov</a>	12/31/2025 732-873-2500 ext. 6328





## Volunteers Needed!

Sign up today and strengthen the community,  
one neighbor at a time!



When we work together to support our neighbors in need, Franklin becomes a better place. If you are looking for an incredible experience gaining a sense of purpose, joy, and gratitude, look no further. Join Our Team! The Franklin Food Bank is serving more clients than ever before, and we can't do it without the help of committed weekly volunteers - *especially volunteers who speak both English and Spanish!* There are opportunities for everybody - from our Warehouse to Market and beyond. Flexible schedules and lots of shifts available. Scan the code and join the Franklin Food Bank family!

## Franklin Township's Adopt-A-Drain Program

In 2022, Franklin Township became part of the nationally recognized Adopt-A-Drain Program. Residents who adopt one of the Township's 7,743 storm drains help protect our waterways from trash and contaminants, which improves water quality and reduces ponding and flooding.



So far, participants in Franklin's Adopt-A-Drain Program have:

- ◆ Adopted 96 storm drains
- ◆ **Removed over 730 pounds of debris from storm drains**, including trash, brown leaves, dirt, and sediment
- ◆ Volunteered over 20 hours of their time in increments as small as 15 minutes to complete these cleanings

Participating in the Adopt-A-Drain Program is easy:

1. Visit <http://nj.adopt-a-drain.org/> to find an available storm drain near you
2. Complete the easy registration to officially adopt your drain!
3. Clear debris from the top of the storm drain grates only at least once a month, and before any predicted storm event. Cleaning requires only a rake and/or broom, trash bag, & gloves.
4. Report what you have cleared in the online system. Estimated amounts are perfect, and the reporting takes less than 5 minutes.

Each participant will receive a welcome packet and yard sign for display after registering.

For questions or more information, please visit:  
<https://www.franklintwpnj.org/committees-commissions/environmental-commission/adopt-a-drain>

## Hunting Permit Applications Coming Soon!

Franklin Township will be accepting applications soon for permits to hunt deer on municipal open space properties.

Hunting on municipal properties is only allowable with a permit. All hunters must obtain a valid hunting license from the State of New Jersey, carry the required personal liability insurance, and comply with State regulations regarding allowable seasons, hours, and more.

[dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/deer-season-and-regulations](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/deer-season-and-regulations)

Hunting Applications will be posted on the Township's website in mid-late July. Please check for updates and to apply:

[franklintwpnj.org/committees-commissions/open-space/hunting-information](http://franklintwpnj.org/committees-commissions/open-space/hunting-information)



## June 2023 to August 2023 PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Township Council

Municipal Building, Council Chambers,  
7:00 p.m.  
June 13, 27 • July 11 • August 8

### Planning Board

Municipal Building, Council Chambers,  
7:30 p.m.  
June 7, 21 • July 5, 19 • August 2

### Zoning Board of Adjustment

Municipal Building, Council Chambers,  
7:30 p.m.  
June 1, 15 • July 6, 20 • August 3

### Advisory Board of Health

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,  
7:30 p.m.  
June 7 • July 5 • August 2

### Advisory Recreation Council

Community Senior Center/Youth Center,  
6:00 p.m.  
June 7 • July 5 • August (No Mtg.)

### Agricultural Advisory Committee

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,  
8:00 p.m.  
June 1 • July 6 • August 3

### Board of Health

Municipal Building, Council Chamber,  
6:00 p.m.  
June 13

### Community Foundation

Remote via WebEx, 7:00 p.m.  
August 16

### Cultural Arts Council

Municipal Complex, 6:30 p.m.  
June 14 • July 12 • August 9

### Emergency Life Support

Public Safety Building, 7:00 p.m.  
June 7

### Environmental Commission

Municipal Building, Council Chambers,  
7:00 p.m.  
June 5, 26 • July 10, 24 • August 7, 21

### Fire Prevention Board

Municipal Building, 7:30 p.m.  
June 8 • July 13 • August (No Mtg.)

### Hamilton Street Advisory Board

Municipal Building, Council Chambers,  
7:00 p.m.  
June 5 • July 3 • August 7

### Historic Preservation Advisory Commission

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,  
7:30 p.m.  
June 6 • July 18 • August 15

### Housing Authority

25 Parkside Street, 7:00 p.m.  
June 14 • July 12 • August (No Mtg.)

### Human Relations Commission

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room  
7:00 p.m.  
June 28 • July 26 • August 23

### Library Board of Trustees

Municipal Library, 5:45 p.m.  
June 28 • July (No Mtg.) • August 23

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

Community Senior Center/Youth Center,  
4:30 p.m.  
June 28 • July 26 • August 30

### Open Space Advisory Committee

Municipal Building, 7:00 p.m.  
June 20 • July 18 • August 15

### Redevelopment Agency

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,  
7:30 p.m.  
June 26 • July 17 • August 21

### Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

Community Senior Center, 10:00 a.m.  
Meeting resume in September

### Sewerage Authority

70 Commerce Drive, 6:30 p.m.  
June 6 • July 5 • August 1

### Shade Tree Commission

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,  
7:00 p.m.  
June 22 • July 27 • August 24

### Trails Advisory Committee

Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,  
7:00 p.m.  
June 14 • July 12 • August 9

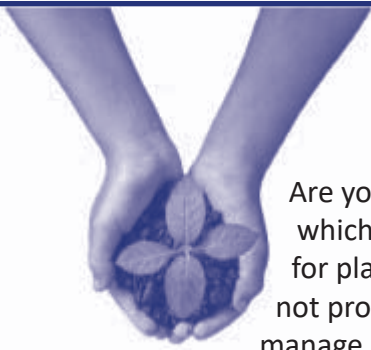
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
**forever 55**  
WORKSHOPS

Free educational workshops that are open to residents ages 55+.  
Register at [franklintwp.recdesk.com](http://franklintwp.recdesk.com)

**Living your Best Life with Arthritis**  
Thursday, June 8th 1:30 PM

**How to Pay for Care While Preserving Your Assets**  
Thursday, July 20th 2:00 PM





## Shade Tree Commission's Treemendous List Franklin Township Recommended Deciduous Tree List

Are you adding trees to your property this spring or replacing trees that died in last year's drought? Do you want to know which trees grow well in Franklin Township? The Shade Tree Commission has compiled a list of trees that we recommend for planting in this area. The listed species enhance biodiversity, avoid monocultures, are not known to be invasive, are not prone to diseases or insect pests, and do not demonstrate poor growth habits that make them difficult or costly to manage. The list of over 140 cultivars of deciduous trees includes their common and botanical names, general information about the expected mature height and width of the species, whether it flowers or is ornamental, and whether it is native to the area. You can easily access the list on the Shade Tree website at <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/shadetree>.

**Right tree, right place!** To ensure the long-term viability of the trees you select, always confirm your specific site conditions match the selected tree's growing requirements and follow best practices for planting and managing your trees. You can utilize online resources such as the USDA Plants Database for site characteristics and you can find guidance on planting and caring for your tree at <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/shadetree>.

Also on the website is an advisory list of trees to NOT plant in the Township. The Shade Tree Commission is currently working on a list of recommended conifers for publication in the early summer.



# TREE CITY USA®

## Shade Tree Commission Open Positions

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) has several open positions. We are an all-volunteer board whose mission is the care, planting, and maintenance of trees on public lands in Franklin Township. We meet in the Township Hall once a month from January to November. Franklin Township has been a proud Tree City USA for 21 years and counting! The STC collaborates with the Environmental Commission, the Open Space Advisory Committee, and various Township departments to accomplish our mission. We also assist Franklin Township residents by increasing awareness of the benefits of trees and by providing advice and information regarding the selection, planting, and care of trees. If you want to help enhance Franklin Township's leafy green canopy, now is your chance! Join us! No experience is necessary, and we'll help with any training or education that you might want.

For more information about the Shade Tree Commission, visit our website at <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/shadetree>. To request to join the Franklin Township Shade Tree Commission, please complete the Citizen Leadership Form at [https://franklintwp.seamlessdocs.com/f/Citizen\\_Leadership](https://franklintwp.seamlessdocs.com/f/Citizen_Leadership) or contact the Township Clerk at (732) 873-2500 x6208.

## Attention Business Owners: Is Your Business Film Ready?

### NJ Motion Picture & Television Commission Seeks Business Owners for its Film Production Database

Earlier this year, the Township of Franklin became certified as a Film Ready Community by the New Jersey Motion Picture & Television Commission (NJMP&TC). The certification signifies the Township's completion of a multistep process to designate it as a town prepared to work with movie and television producers wishing to film within its borders. The endeavor not only brings exposure to Franklin Township but creates exciting opportunities for local businesses and industries looking to expand their reach and collaborate with the vibrant world of filmmaking! Franklin invites caterers, restaurants, vendors, hotels, small business owners and the like to be a part of this effort by encouraging those interested to join the NJ Motion Picture & Television Commission Production Database. The NJMP&TC Production Database is a tool for filmmakers seeking available services from local businesses while filming on location.



Film production requires a myriad of resources and services, and Franklin wants to connect filmmakers with talented and reliable businesses like yours. By joining the NJ Motion Picture & Television Commission Production Database, you'll have the opportunity to showcase your products and services to filmmakers in search of locations, props, equipment, catering, hotels, transportation, and much more. Film productions are also presently seeking to work with women-owned, veteran-owned, and minority-owned businesses.

Whatever your business, this is your chance to be discovered by industry professionals and establish valuable connections within the film community. Don't miss out on the chance to have your business featured in film projects, gaining exposure, and potentially opening doors to new opportunities.

To be included in our filmmaker services database, simply visit the NJMP&TC website at <https://www.nj.gov/state/njfilm/production-psd.shtml> and complete the quick and easy registration. Provide a brief description of your business, the services you offer, and any relevant contact information. Once you're part of the database, filmmakers will be able to directly search for your business.

Don't let this incredible opportunity pass you by! Join the NJMP&TC Production Services database today and become an essential resource for filmmakers seeking your expertise. Together, let's bring the magic of film and television to life!

## Starring New Jersey

### Want to See Your Town or Property on the Big Screen? Now is your chance!

We're looking for a wide array of residential, commercial, municipal and state properties that might attract a producer's attention - from warehouses to condos, neighborhood eating spots to historic landmarks, newly built homes to rustic farm houses - all properties are valuable in attracting productions to your town. Submitting a property via [film.nj.gov](http://film.nj.gov) is easy to do - and it's free! Visit the "Location Photo Library" page online to get started.



@NJMotionPicture



@NJFilmCommission



@NJMotionPictureandTV





Looking to purchase a home? Did you know if you get pre-purchase counseling you may be eligible for special mortgage products/down payment or closing cost grants? CJHRC offers FREE pre-purchase counseling in 3 ways – individual (in-person) by appointment; online & in-person combo counseling; or you can attend a 2-day virtual webinar. CJHRC’s pre-purchase counseling services and programs are always FREE and cover the buying process. Counseling includes topics on Fair Housing, Money Management, Credit, Getting a Mortgage Loan, Homeowners Insurance, the Importance of a Real Estate Attorney, Home Inspection, State of NJ Very Low, Low/Moderate Income Program, grant opportunities and more. After completing counseling requirements, participants can obtain a certificate of completion (usually required by lenders for special rate mortgages and/or for grant program(s)).

To enroll in individual or online pre-purchase education, contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036.

**Renter Info & Resources Webinar**

ATTENTION CURRENT AND POTENTIAL RENTERS!!! Are you looking for an affordable rental unit? This informative webinar covers Federal and State voucher programs, Fair Housing, the State of NJ Very Low/Low/Moderate Income Program, credit, eviction, and helpful resources. For more details, contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036.

**PRE-RECORDED**

**CJHRC’s FREE Virtual Homebuyer Webinars**

**June Two-Day Virtual Homebuyer Webinar**  
June 27 & June 29, 2023 | 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Go to [www.cjhr.org](http://www.cjhr.org) and click on the virtual counseling tab, then click on Pre-Purchase Virtual Homebuyer Workshop, click on the Virtual Homebuyer Workshop and register for the webinar at the links near the bottom of the screen.

**September Virtual Homebuyer Webinars**  
September 11 & September 13, 2023  
(Contact CJHRC for information)  
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

**Fair Housing Webinar**

The Fair Housing Act is an important law which extends to all aspects of housing – sales, advertising, financing, rental, insurance, design, and construction. The webinar reviews the protections of tenants and homeowners including the protected classes, what is not protected under the Fair Housing Act, exclusions to the Fair Housing Act, reasonable accommodations and modifications, assistance/comfort animals, landlords and Section 8 or other vouchers, criminal background, credit checks, and more! To view the recorded webinar, contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036

**PRE-RECORDED**

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. CJHRC posts weekly 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 or visit our website at [www.cjhr.org](http://www.cjhr.org) to view resources.

## Franklin, You’ve Got the Power

Are you eager to join the green revolution and contribute to a sustainable future? As part of New Jersey’s ambitious pledge to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050, several exciting energy programs are now available to you. These initiatives aim to empower Franklin residents with the means to reduce their carbon footprint, increase energy efficiency, harness the power of renewable resources, and, of course, save money. These programs are available to residents regardless of income. Whether you are a renter, homeowner, business owner, or simply a conscientious community member, these programs offer you the opportunity to actively participate in the transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy landscape while saving you money on your monthly energy costs.




**GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM FAQs**

[franklintwpnj.org/GEA](http://franklintwpnj.org/GEA)



**NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT FINDER**

Want to know more about NJ’s clean energy program or community solar? Log on to [njcleanenergy.com/community-solar](http://njcleanenergy.com/community-solar) to learn more. Scan the QR code and enter your zip code to see a list of community solar projects that are available in your area.

**eversolar**

**SAVE MONEY WITH NEW JERSEY’S COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM**

The state of New Jersey introduced a Clean Energy Program that will **save you up to 21% on your PSE&G electricity costs** while helping the planet. Our solar farms have limited spots — so please don’t wait or you could lose out! **Enroll today with promo code: FRTS**

**HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:**

1. Our local rooftop solar farms have acres of panels generating power from the sun.
2. We send that solar power into the PSE&G grid and generate solar credits.
3. Solar credits are applied to your utility bill, reducing the amount you owe PSE&G. Then, you’ll receive a statement from Eversolar for the value of those solar credits, discounted by up to 21%!

**BONUS: ENROLLEES RECEIVE \$50 VISA GIFT CARD**

- ✓ Renters and homeowners who live in houses, condos or apartments are eligible.
- ✓ No solar panels are needed on your roof.
- ✓ PSE&G remains your utility provider with no disruption to your service.


**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS NJ REACH ITS GOAL OF 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050!**

**CONTACT**

Care@NJEversolar.com  
NJEversolar.com  
(551) 278-9727

265 HACKENSACK ST. PMB 121  
WOOD RIDGE, NJ 07075

**eversolar**



**solarlandscape**

**COMMUNITY SOLAR**

CLEAN AFFORDABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

- Lower Energy Costs**  
25% off the portion of solar credited to your utility bill
- Access for All**  
Renters or homeowners can access solar without installing panels
- 45,000+**  
Our projects prevent 45,000+ metric tons of CO2 emissions a year

**Go green for guaranteed savings!**  
Community solar is a state program that allows NJ communities to enroll in the benefits of clean, solar energy without installing panels. Community solar delivers energy from solar panels located on nearby commercial properties to the electric company. You enroll online and save money while lowering your carbon footprint!

Use the QR or link below to enroll [www.solarlandscape.com/25](http://www.solarlandscape.com/25)

Use Invite Code: **FRANKEC**

**Scan to Sign Up!**






# Hello Franklin!

Join us as we explore some of the wonderful places and faces that make up our community of Franklin Township.



## Heartwarming Reception Honors Centenarian War Hero, Mr. Michel Mockers

On the 21st of March, the community of Franklin Township came together to celebrate and honor centenarian war veteran, Mr. Michel Mockers, a remarkable man with an even more remarkable story, for his extraordinary courage and unwavering dedication to freedom during World War II. Mr. Mockers was bestowed with the prestigious insignia of Knight of the Legion of Honor, France's highest order of merit, by French Consul General Jérémie Robert of New York. The event, attended by fellow veterans, Township officials, friends and family of Mr. Mockers, and the public was a tribute to a life of heroism under fire.



The occasion, touted as being an event 100 years in the making, began with a sense of grandeur befitting a true hero. The Franklin Township Police Department Honor Guard, accompanied by the Canal Walk Veterans and the Federation of French War Veterans, ceremonially processed into the Franklin Township Council Chambers, carrying the flags of both the United States and France. The presentation of colors was followed by the resounding national anthems of both countries. Adding a touch of musical flair, Franklin High School student Rebecca Russo sang a beautiful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed by "La Marseillaise," the French national anthem, sung by the talented Jean-Baptiste Chaléroux of the French Consulate.

Amidst a palpable sense of reverence and admiration, Mr. Mockers was honored with the Key to the City, symbolizing the community's gratitude and appreciation, by fellow veteran and Franklin Township Mayor, Phillip Kramer. Mayor Kramer spoke of America's and Franklin's long-standing allyship with France dating back to the Revolutionary War. He further spoke of Mr. Mockers' service to the war effort and to the world as an artist, author, poet, and father. Kramer, then, proudly issued a proclamation officially designating March 21st as *Michel Mockers Day* in Franklin Township. Assemblyman Joseph Daniels, representing the 17th Legislative District, presented a resolution acknowledging Mr. Mockers' exceptional valor and service. Daniels, also a veteran, quoted meaningful excerpts from *Rene's War*, a memoir authored by Mockers, while noting that many of his own family members fought for freedom.



French Consul General Mr. Jérémie Robert delivered an awe-inspiring speech, recounting Mr. Mockers' courageous feats of resistance against the Nazi occupation of France. He highlighted Mockers' early role building a resistance cell in the French Resistance and the indomitable spirit and unwavering determination displayed by Mr. Mockers during World War II. Mockers received the French Lieutenant and British Under-Lieutenant, which earned him the British Citation and the French Citation with War Cross or Croix de Guerre for his exceptional bravery.

The atmosphere was charged with emotion as the highly anticipated moment arrived. Alain Dupuis, a Fellow Legion of Honor recipient and chairman of the Federation of French War Veterans, formally presented Mr. Mockers with the Knight of the Legion of Honor. As the prestigious honor was bestowed upon him, the hauntingly beautiful "Chant des Partisans," the Song of the French Resistance, played in the background, accompanied by an impromptu chorus of French veterans in attendance. The ceremony concluded with a reading of the Paul Eluard poem "Liberté" by Franklin High School students Charbel Hachem and Victoria Luck in French and in English.



The selection unexpectedly mirrored Mockers' earlier speech about the importance of freedom and liberty. Finally, the Township closed the event with a soul-stirring rendition of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by the talented Franklin High School Choir, under the guidance of musical director Timothy Walton. After the selection, Mr. Mockers stood, thanked the choir and implored the young musicians to "Keep on singing and keep on making music for the world!"

The reception honoring Mr. Michel Mockers was a testament to the power of community, unity, and gratitude. It brought together individuals of all ages, reminding many of the enduring legacy of heroism and sacrifice. Franklin Township proudly stands alongside Mr. Mockers, expressing profound admiration and appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to freedom and peace.





# FLOODING PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU

Flooding in Franklin Township is caused by a number of sources. The Millstone River, Raritan River, Six Mile Run and the Delaware & Raritan Canal leave their banks during heavy rain storms. Other flood-prone streams include Ten Mile Run, Nine Mile Run, Carter's Brook, Simonson Brook, Cedar Grove Brook, Seeley's Brook, and Randolph Brook. Even if you don't live near one of these watercourses, you still may be at risk of flooding.

The flooding, power outages and extensive damage caused by Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Irene and more recently Hurricane Ida are clearly still on the minds of Township residents. In September 2021, Hurricane Ida became one of deadliest storms on record and caused extensive flooding and damage throughout the township. Over eight inches of rain fell across the northern and central parts of NJ that created flash flood conditions and trapped people in their cars and homes. It also became one of the costliest storms on record. Other large storms took place in April 2007 and March 2010. The March 2010 storm occurred after soils had already been saturated and hundreds of trees toppled over.

Localized flooding also takes place throughout the Township during heavy rain events. Flooding is caused by differing sets of circumstances at work such as frozen soils, saturated soils, storm duration, and storm intensity. Nearly 25% of flood insurance claims come from moderate-to-low flood risk areas.

**Township Flood Services:** Take the time to check your flood hazard. Flood maps and reference materials are available from the Franklin Township Public Library. You can visit the Engineering Department in the Municipal Building to see if you are in a mapped flood plain. They can provide other information, such as base flood elevations, floodway information, past flood problems, and copies of Elevation Certificates, if on file.

The Engineering Department can answer your questions or can perform a site visit to review surface flooding problems and explain ways to help minimize flood damage. They can be reached at (732) 873-2500 ext. 6230, or stop by any weekday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

**What You Can Do:** Your cooperation and assistance is vital in the Township's efforts to help prevent flooding. Here are some things you can do to help:

- Do not dump anything into ditches, swales or streams. Grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding.
- If your property is next to a drainage way, please help keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Public Works removes major blockages such as fallen trees from Township maintained drainage ways. Other drainage ways are maintained privately, by other government agencies, or by a homeowner's association.
- If you see debris in drainage ways maintained by the Township, contact Public Works at (732) 249-7800.
- Check with the Zoning and Construction Departments prior to building as permits may be necessary. Contact the Engineering Department before you clear, fill, remove soil or re-grade your property.
- If you see construction without a permit sign posted, contact the Construction Department at (732) 873-2500 ext. 6220. If you see grading or tree removal on a property, contact the Engineering Department to confirm that permits were secured.



**Flood Protection:** There are several ways to protect buildings from flood damage. For buildings constructed within the floodplain; flood walls, earthen berms, waterproofing of walls and watertight closures are some options as well as moving and/or raising the elevation of the structure. Very few buildings in Franklin Township are constructed within the actual floodplain. If yours is one of them, contact either the Engineering or Construction Department for specific help and recommendations.

Some houses have sewers that back up into the basement during heavy rains. If sewer backups concern you, contact a plumber about installing a backup valve. A plumbing permit would be needed.

If you know that a flood is coming, shut off gas and electricity and move valuables upstairs. Fire is a major cause of damage in floods. Make a detailed checklist in advance in order to be properly prepared. Be mindful of evacuation orders, it won't just be your life you're risking but the lives of the first responders that may have to respond in the event of an emergency!

**Flood Insurance:** If you do not have flood insurance, talk to an insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Because Franklin Township participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a flood insurance policy. Flood insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone.



For properties with limited flood loss history, *there is a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) available.* For a lower cost than a Standard Flood Insurance Policy, homeowners can insure themselves against losses. For more information on how to qualify for a Preferred Risk Policy call FEMA's Flood Insurance Hotline at 1-800-427-4661, or speak with your insurance agent.

Another valuable resource is FEMA's [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) website. By simply entering your address, you can get a flood risk rating, a flood insurance premium estimate and a list of nearby insurance agents.

Many purchase flood insurance because a bank required it when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. These policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. Much more damage is usually done to furniture and other building contents than to the actual structure.

You may also wish to speak to your insurance agent about a sewer backup rider to homeowner's insurance policy.

## Flood Safety Tips

- **Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents are deceptive; six inches of moving water knocks you off your feet.
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers, the road or bridge may be washed out.
- **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** The number two flood killer after is electrocution. Report downed power lines to the utility company.
- **Turn off your electricity.** Some appliances keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances that have gotten wet unless they have been cleaned and dried.
- **Look out for animals, especially snakes.** Small animals flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Turn things over with a stick before picking them up.
- **Look before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris. Mud-covered can be very slippery.
- **Avoid wading through the flood water.** Oils, chemicals, and even raw sewage mix with flood waters creating unsanitary and even hazardous conditions.
- **Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke, use candles or open flames unless you know for sure that the gas has been turned off and the area ventilated.





# 2023 SUMMER 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**

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

**Editor, Mayra L. Jimenez**



Community/Senior Center



Franklin Youth Center

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, BEAU BYRTUS

Volume 3, Issue 2

Dear Franklinites,  
Summer is fast approaching and as always we continue to offer a wide variety of activities for the residents of Franklin. Along with summer camps being held at Naaman Williams Park, Middlebush Park and MacAfee Road School, we are also offering several 1 week camp options at the Franklin Youth Center. We are offering swim lessons at the Williams Park Pool as well as tennis lessons at Inman Park. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you all to

Maria Dueñas, our new Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator. Maria comes to us with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Kean University and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. She has elevated our already existing Friday Night Drop In program while also developing several other programs. Some of these activities are a sensory exploration class for younger participants and a bowling league. We are excited to see what new and exciting programs Maria

will develop for our Therapeutic Recreation participants. We are continually seeking more diverse programs for our community and as such I invite you to contact the Recreation Department and share any programs ideas you may have.

Yours in recreation,  
Beau Byrtus, Director  
Franklin Township Parks & Recreation

# YOUTH Programs

### Tennis @ Inman Park, Leupp Lane

Monday, June 12 through July 17

Rally Racquet  
Super Servers

6:00-6:55pm  
7:00-7:55pm

Ages: 5 & 6  
Ages: 7 - 9

\$69  
\$69

### Wednesday, June 14 through July 19

Amazing Aces  
Teen Titans

6:00-6:55pm  
7:00-7:55pm

Ages: 10 - 12  
Ages: 13 - 17

\$69  
\$69

### Saturday, June 17 through July 22

Teen Titans  
Rally Racquets  
Super Servers  
Amazing Aces

8:30-9:55am  
10:00-10:55am  
11:00-11:55am  
12:00-12:55pm

Ages: 13 - 17  
Ages: 5 & 6  
Ages: 7 - 9  
Ages: 10 - 12

\$99  
\$69  
\$69  
\$69

A developmental program designed to provide fundamental instruction and low-level competitive tennis games. Participants must supply their own racquet. Sneakers required.

### Summer Rugby @ Middlebush Park (421 DeMott Lane, Somerset) – Patriot Turf Field

Wednesday, June 7 – July 19, 2023

6:30 – 7:30pm

Ages: 5-14

\$110

Emphasis on the development of individual skills – running, passing, kicking, receiving, and handling. Game play will introduce players to positional and team skills. Everyone will have the opportunity to run pass and score! Players will participate in Saturday Rugby Festivals.

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



# THERAPEUTIC Programs

Franklin Township 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.

### Switch It Up Video Gaming Club @ Community/Senior Center (505 DeMott Lane, Somerset)

Sunday, June 11, 2023

2:00-5:00pm

Ages: 18- 30

\$10

Neurodiverse and therapeutic participants grab your Nintendo Switch for an afternoon of gaming fun. Games will be chosen based upon participant choice. Gaming Club will meet 1 Sunday each month. Upcoming dates can be found online.

### Friday Night-Drop In @ Community/Senior Center (505 DeMott Lane, Somerset)

Friday June 9-July 28, 2023 (No session on 6/2 & 6/16)

7:00-8:30pm

Ages: 18- 30

\$10

Friday Night Drop In is a chance for neurodiverse and therapeutic participants to hang out and have fun while enjoying different themed activities each week. Some activities include parties, games, karaoke, and crafts.

### Therapeutic Social Bowling League @ Bowlero North Brunswick (1 Carolier Lane North Brunswick, NJ 08902)

Saturdays– May 20-June 24, 2023

10:00am-12:00pm

Ages: 13-30

\$70

Neurodiverse and therapeutic participants will enjoy bowling on a 6-week social bowling league at Bowlero North Brunswick while meeting some new friends or connecting with old ones.

The Franklin Township Recreation Department recently hired a Certified Recreation Therapist and is looking to increase and improve Therapeutic Recreation program opportunities. Your input is very important, please feel free take a few moments to answer our survey at:  
<https://franklintwp.seamlessdocs.com/f/TherapyProgramsSurvey>

Stay tuned for more therapeutic programs coming soon!

For Therapeutic/Special Needs program questions contact:  
Maria Dueñas, Therapeutic Program Coordinator  
Maria.Duenas@franklinnj.gov  
732-873-2500 x6350



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





# SUMMER CAMP 2023

505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873

732-873-1991, Option 4 [www.franklintwpnj.org/rec](http://www.franklintwpnj.org/rec)

YOUTH CAMPS RUN JUNE 26 - AUGUST 4TH. THERE IS NO CAMP ON JULY 4TH

Registration (first-come, first serve) is limited to Franklin Township residents or children attending school in Franklin Township and entering grades 1-5 (ages 5-10). Current year report card is required for all campers. Fee reductions for camps may be available to qualified participants. Call for application information. All of our camps are designed so your child can make new friends and have fun. Campers take part in arts & crafts, games, non-competitive sports, recreational play, themed activities and trips. Under the guidance of caring, well-trained staff members, your child will have a great summer experience that lasts a lifetime!

## YOUTH CAMPS

MACAFEE ROAD SCHOOL, 53 MACAFEE RD., SOMERSET

This school-based camp remains open in inclement weather and on trip days. Activities are planned both indoors and outdoors. Trip fees are additional. Children must provide their own lunch and snacks. Transportation is not provided.

PLEASE NOTE: Camp is scheduled Monday through Thursday only.

FULL DAY (M-TH)	8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	\$795* / 6 weeks
AM Care (M-TH)	7:30 - 8:30 AM	\$145 / 6 weeks
PM Care (M-TH)	4:30 - 6:00 PM	\$215 / 6 weeks

WILLIAMS PARK & POOL, MATILDA AVE. & MARK ST., SOMERSET

This outdoor, full day camp also provides campers with swimming lessons and open swim time. Trip fees are additional and camp will open at 12 noon for campers not attending trips. A summer lunch program is available at this site. Transportation is not provided. Camp will close on inclement weather days.

FULL DAY (MON-FRI)	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	\$640* / 6 weeks
AM Care (M-F)	7:30 - 9:00 AM	\$87 / 6 weeks
PM Care (M-F)	4:30 - 6:00 PM	\$87 / 6 weeks

MIDDLEBUSH PARK CAMP, 421 DEMOTT LANE, SOMERSET

An outdoor, half-day option—all the fun, just a shorter day! Trip fees are additional and camp is closed on trip days. Children must provide their own snacks. Transportation is not provided.

Camp will close on inclement weather days.

HALF DAY (MON-FRI)	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	\$333* / 6 weeks
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Campers must meet age (5-10) **and** grade (entering 1st-5th) requirements to participate. Children must have the ability to maintain personal hygiene functions, specifically toileting needs. Trip locations and costs will be advertised at a later date. Possible trip venues include: Rutgers Cinema, The Funplex, Bowling, and/or Urban Air Trampoline. \*Sibling discount of \$25 for each additional child in the same immediate family.

REGISTER ONLINE AT [FRANKLINTWP.RECDESK.COM](http://FRANKLINTWP.RECDESK.COM)

## DESTINATION DISCOVERY CAMPS

Learn something amazing this summer with our Destination Discovery theme half day camps at the Franklin Township Youth Center, 429 Lewis Street, Somerset. Each camp is one week long and runs from 9:00am-12:00pm.

- NASA – STEM Explorers** July 3-7 (no class 7/4) Ages 6-10 Cost: \$160  
 Developed in partnership with NASA, our campers will think and act like NASA innovators during this hands-on program inspired by the NASA OPTIMUS PRIME Research Challenge (NASA OPSPARC). Use creative and collaborative skills to design a mission patch, train like an astronaut, build a Mars rover and solve real-world engineering problems. How might space suit cooling tubes be used to solve a problem on Earth? Presented by Mad Science.
- The Great Race!** July 10-14 Ages 6-10 Cost: \$140  
 Inspired by characters in the book Going Places, campers are immersed in real world challenges and hands-on fun. This week, campers join characters Maya and Rafael collaborating on the most amazing and imaginative go cart anyone has seen. We engineer unique racers, learn about propulsion, experiment with simple machines and design a challenging racecourse. Presented by AlphaBest.
- Lights On!** July 17-21 Ages 6-10 Cost: \$140  
 Inspired by characters in the book Going Places, campers are immersed in real world challenges and hands-on fun! Characters Maya and Rafael create solar powered lamps for hurricane victims who have no access to electricity. Campers investigate alternative forms of energy and have some fun with the sun. Presented by AlphaBest.
- Ocean Rescue!** July 24-28 Ages 6-10 Cost: \$140  
 Inspired by characters in the book Going Places, campers are immersed in real world challenges and hands-on fun. In Ocean Rescue, Maya and Rafael invent the PlasticSuperScooper3000 to extract hazardous trash from the ocean. Campers become marine biologists with a mission to protect the wildlife that lives in our oceans. Presented by AlphaBest.

**SUMMER SWIM LESSONS AT WILLIAMS PARK POOL**  
 CLASSES BEGIN MONDAY, JUNE 26TH AND END SATURDAY, JULY 29TH. NO CLASSES ON TUESDAY JULY 4TH.  
 OPEN TO TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY AGES 4 AND UP!  
**REGISTER AT**  
[FRANKLINTWP.RECDESK.COM](http://FRANKLINTWP.RECDESK.COM)

**LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSE**  
 We will offer the course. Upon successful completion, we will hire you to work for us! For ages 15 & up!  
 Call: 732-873-1991, Option 4 for more information

**OPEN SWIM**  
 Williams Park Pool Starts June 26, 2023  
 Monday-Friday: 4:00-8:00pm  
 Saturday: 12:00-6:00pm  
 Open to Township Residents Only!  
**Register: [franklintwp.recdesk.com](http://franklintwp.recdesk.com)**



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





# YOUTH CENTER Programs

Open to youth in grades 6-12 ♦ Membership is required

Visit our registration website @ [franklintwp.recdesk.com](http://franklintwp.recdesk.com) for start dates and membership information.

All programs take place at the Franklin Youth Center, 429 Lewis Street, Somerset, NJ 08873, Main Telephone: 732-873-7292.

### Middle Earth

Tuesday-Friday

3:00-6:00pm (Year Around)

FREE-Members only

Middle Earth is a non-profit that has been serving youth in Somerset. Our vision is that all youth we serve have a safe place where they feel valued and respected allowing them to reach their full potential.

### Middle Earth Employment Program

Tuesday, June 27-August 14th

4:00-6:00pm

FREE-Members only

This program is designed to imitate a job and provide employment skills, career planning, personal development and financial skills for youth that have trouble finding employment in the summer. Starting at 14 years old.

### Girls Circle Summer Challenge

Thursday, July 6th-August 10th

1:00pm - 3:00pm

FREE-Members only

The Girls Circle model is a structured support group for girls ages 12-18 years-old. It integrates relational theory, resiliency practices, and skills training in a specific format that is designed to increase positive connections, personal, collective strength, and competence in girls.

### "Power Up: Youth Strength & Agility Program"

Tuesday and Thursday, July 7th-Aug. 10th

5:30pm - 7:00pm

FREE-Members only

For ages 14-18, Grades 9-12th

A 6-Week Athletic Strength and Agility Intensive for High School Athletes who are ready to take their training to the next level in the off season. This two times a week training will cover Intermediate level strength training, plyometrics, max power output and acceleration skills to implement into their specific sport.

### Youth Center Media Camp

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, July 7th-Aug. 10th

12:30 - 3:30pm

FREE-Members only

For ages 14-18, Grades 9-12th

A 6-Week Media Intensive for High School students who are ready to explore the world of video production, acting, directing, and editing. This three time a week class will cover introductory level skills surrounding script writing and memorization, scene blocking and story boarding, basic camera skills and editing using the latest Adobe Creative Cloud technology.

### Boys Council: Summer Challenge "The Secret to Success"

Wednesday, July 6th-Aug. 9th

Session 1 - Middle School: 12:30 - 2:00pm

FREE-Members only

Session 2 - High School: 3:30 - 5:00pm

A 6-Week Mentoring program series that will help unlock the minds of young men who are interested in learning the Secrets of Financial Success, Health & Wellness, and Life Itself, while also gaining a better understanding of themselves.

### SportsPlus+

Tuesday, June-August (Dates TBD)

6:30-7:30pm

FREE-Members only

Come learn about what Sports can do for you beyond the playing field.

### FYI Basketball

Friday, June-August

6:00-8:00pm

FREE-Members only

Youth Instructional Basketball: skills, drills, and scrimmages.

For Youth Center program questions contact:  
Mawiyah Holliman, Youth Center Program Manager  
Mawiyah.Holliman@franklinnj.gov  
732-873-2500 x7022

FREE! SUMMER KICK OFF @ THE FRANKLIN YOUTH CENTER

# YOUTH FESTIVAL

JUNE 24TH Saturday 1pm-5pm

429 LEWIS STREET SOMERSET NJ

OPEN TO YOUTH CENTER MEMBERS ONLY

FOOD  
MUSIC  
GAMES  
FUN

INFO: 732-873-7292 REGISTER:  
FRANKLINTWP.RECDESK.COM

# SUMMER FUN FOR TEENS!




MEDIA CAMP July 10-Aug 18  
GIRLS BBALL CAMP Aug 14-18  
BOYS BBALL CAMP Aug 21-25  
POWER UP FITNESS July 7-Aug 10

Open to Franklin Students Grades 6 to 12

REGISTER  
FranklinTwp.RecDesk.com  
INFO: 732-873-7292  
429 Lewis St  
Somerset NJ

Arts & Crafts  
Career Development  
Movie Nights  
Great Adventure Trips  
& MORE!



# ADULT Programs

### Zumba

Community/Senior Center

Tuesdays & Thursdays, June 6 - August 3

(No class on 6/22 or 7/4)

7:30-8:30pm

Ages 16+

\$64 residents

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!

### Summer Tennis

Inman Park Tennis Courts (Leupp Lane, Somerset)

Wednesdays - June 14 - July 19

7:00-7:55pm

Ages: 18 +

\$69 residents

Saturdays - June 17- July 22

8:30-9:55am

Ages: 18+

\$99 residents

A developmental program designed to provide fundamental instruction and low-level competitive tennis games. Participants must supply their own racquet.

### Summer Pickleball

Inman Park Tennis Courts (Leupp Lane, Somerset)

Thursdays - June 15 through July 20

5:30-6:25pm

Ages: 18 +

\$69 residents

6:30-7:25pm

Ages: 18+

\$69 residents

Learn to play the fastest growing sport in the world! Pickleball combines elements of tennis, ping pong and badminton into one game. It can be played as singles or doubles on a court similar to but smaller than a tennis court. Paddles and plastic balls are used. Players must supply their own paddles.

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



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





# FOREVER 55 ACTIVE ADULT Programs

Open to residents ages 55+ ♦ Online registration required

All programs take place at the Franklin Township Community/Senior Center, 505 DeMott Lane in Somerset. Registration is open to residents ages 55 and over. The summer session of these programs run from July- September. Fees vary and are based on the number of classes per session. Visit our registration website @ [franklintwp.recdesk.com](http://franklintwp.recdesk.com) for start dates and more information on current and new programs, monthly educational workshops, program additions, and events.

### FREE PROGRAMS:

Knitting & Crocheting Club	Mondays	12:00PM	Led by creative volunteers, learn how to knit or crochet or work on a current project .
Theater Club	Tuesdays	3:00-5:00PM	Gain valuable acting skills while being creative and exercising your mind and body.
Drop in Line Dance	Tuesdays	1:30-2:30PM	Drop in and learn new steps with friends. This program is led by 3 talented volunteers.
Walking Club	Thursdays	9:30-10:30AM	Meet at Colonial Park and walk with friends.
Project Healthy Bones	TBA	TBA	24 week fitness & educational program for women and men who have osteoporosis or at risk of developing the disease.

### FEE BASED INDOOR PROGRAMS:

Tap Dance	Mondays	9:30-10:30AM	Beginner level dance classes that teach participants new steps and short dance.
Ballet	Mondays	10:35-11:20AM	Perfect way to exercise your body and mind while having fun.
Functional Fitness	Mondays	2:15-3:15PM	Train your muscles to work together and prepare them for daily tasks by simulating common movements done at home, sports, or work. This low impact program emphasizes core stability.
Functional Fitness	Thursdays	11:00AM-12:00PM	This mat-based exercise class strengthens and tones muscles, improves posture, provides flexibility and balance.
Pilates	Mondays	3:20-4:20PM	Beginner level dance classes that teach participants new steps and short dances.
Pilates	Thursdays	12:15-1:15PM	Get "centered" with a series of poses that build strength, flexibility, and lengthen your muscles.
Line Dancing	Wednesdays	9:30-10:30AM	Get "centered" with a series of poses that will build strength, flexibility, and lengthen your muscles.
Gentle Mat Yoga	Fridays	9:00-10:00AM	This class is done while seated in a chair.
Chair Yoga	Fridays	10:15-11:15AM	

**Swingin' Singin' Seniors:** This singing group entertains locally and practice at the Community/Senior Center on Fridays at 1:30PM. All levels welcome. Open to residents ages 55+ and caregivers.

### Senior Citizen Clubs:

These clubs meet at the Community/Senior Center, 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset. Members enjoy weekly meetings, parties, trips, 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! Open to residents ages 55+.

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

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



## SPECIAL EVENT Programs



For Special Event program questions contact: Mayra L. Jimenez, Recreation Program Coordinator, Special Events [Mayra.Jimenez@franklinnj.gov](mailto:Mayra.Jimenez@franklinnj.gov) 732-873-2500 x6340

## Parks & Recreation Department

Beau Byrtus, Director of Parks & Recreation  
 Marianne Regan, Senior Citizen Program Coordinator  
 Gloria Fidecaro, Recreation Program Coordinator  
 Mayra L. Jimenez, Recreation Program Coordinator  
 Maria Dueñas, Therapeutic Program Coordinator  
 Janet Timari, Administrative Aide  
 Tony Morgan, P/T Program Assistant  
 Patricia Daniel, P/T Recreation Staff  
 Jordyn Williams, P/T Recreation Staff

Windy White, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation  
 Tony Taveras, Youth Center Building Manager  
 Mawiyah Holliman, Youth Center Program Manager  
 Joel Painson, Youth Center Program Coordinator  
 Joe Jankowski, Youth Center Program Coordinator  
 Stephanie Williams, Youth Center Office Coordinator  
 George Worsley, P/T Youth Center Program Assistant  
 Larissa Ford, P/T Clerical Assistant  
 Malika Murray, P/T Clerical Assistant

Kashonna McKinney, P/T Clerical Assistant  
 Terrance Brown, P/T Safety Liaison  
 Lorraine Thompson, P/T Safety Liaison  
 Bernard Fletcher, P/T Safety Liaison  
 Damian Davey, P/T Safety Liaison



### SCAN WITH YOUR DEVICE TO REGISTER ONLINE!



For more information on programs, policies and procedures, please visit: [www.franklintwpnj.org/rec](http://www.franklintwpnj.org/rec)

### TOWNSHIP SPORTS CLUBS & LEAGUES

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

<b>FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SOCCER CLUB/TOP SOCCER (SPECIAL NEEDS)</b>	
<a href="http://www.franklinsoccer.com">www.franklinsoccer.com</a>	
<b>FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BASEBALL LEAGUE</b>	732-649-8068
<a href="http://www.ftblbaseball.com/ftblsomerset@gmail.com">www.ftblbaseball.com/ftblsomerset@gmail.com</a>	
<b>FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP/S. BOUND BROOK LITTLE LEAGUE</b>	732-469-7761
<a href="http://www.leaguelineup.com / ftsblittleleague.com">www.leaguelineup.com / ftsblittleleague.com</a>	
<b>POP WARNER FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING</b>	
<a href="http://www.ftpw.org/ftpwnj@gmail.com">www.ftpw.org/ftpwnj@gmail.com</a>	
<b>ADULT SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL</b>	609-395-9167

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





# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

40 Churchill Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873

Monday – Friday • 7:00 AM- 2:45 PM • 732-249-7800, ext. 6290

## RECYCLING INFORMATION

### FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP CONVENIENCE CENTER

(corner of School Ave. & Berry St.)

732-249-7800 ext. 6290

Franklin Township Website:

<https://www.franklintwpnj.org>

### CALENDAR

#### Saturday Schedule

**8:00am – 2:45pm**

June 10, 2023

July 8, 2023

#### Monday Schedule (Tuesday in case of holiday)

**7:30am – 11:30am**

June 5, 2023

June 19, 2023

July 3, 2023

July 17, 2023

### TO PURCHASE A PASS:

You must be resident of Franklin Township

Driver's license required for proof of residency

### PLACES TO PURCHASE A PASS:

#### 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

Commercial or Rental Vehicles

### 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**

**June 19, 2023**

**July 17, 2023**

**August 21, 2023**

**September 18, 2023**

### 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

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

#### Franklin Township

June 1, 15, 29

July 13, 27



#### Franklin Park – Griggstown

**June 2, 16, 30**

**July 14, 28**

**August 11, 25**

#### Society Hill I & II, Whitehall Manor, Beacon Hill & surrounding areas

June 5, 19

July 3, 17, 31

#### Canal Walk, Somerset Run & Summerfields

June 9, 23

July 7, 21

### Household Hazardous Waste Days

**9:00am to 2:00pm**

**June 17** – South County Public Works

410 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough 08844

**Sept. 23** – Branchburg Township Public Works

34 Kenbury Road, Branchburg 08876

**Oct. 21** – South County Public Works

410 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough 08844

### 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 Center

**First Saturday of the month drop-off:**

**8:00am – 2:00pm**

June 3, 2023

July 1, 2023

**Occupants should remain in their vehicles at all times. Recycling employees remove the material from the vehicles**

*(Electronic Waste & Textiles are not accepted at the Center)*

### ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

1<sup>st</sup> 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 thru Friday, from 9:00am to 5pm.

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

### OPERATION SECURE SHRED Schedule 2023

#### June 3, 2023

Franklin Township Sewerage Authority

70 Commerce Drive

Somerset, NJ 08873

#### July 15, 2023

Somerset County Public Works Garage

North County Facility

411 Chimney Rock Road

Bridgewater, NJ 08807





# 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

Spring is in the air at Franklin Township Public Schools. The spring athletic season has begun and our school campuses are coming alive with outdoor activities and upcoming field days. In this newsletter, we take a look at how some of our elementary students are learning about health and fitness through the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge and a physical education program coordinated by Rutgers University.

Just prior to Spring's arrival, our district recognized Black History Month and Women's History Month with activities at all grade levels. Our aspiring artists were able to showcase their work in March during Youth Art and Music in Our Schools Month. In fact, members of our Franklin High School Dance Troupe went on "tour" at the other district schools and were able to not only share their love of dance but also to reconnect with their former teachers and see their siblings. In this issue we feature articles on these subjects, as well as an event at Pine Grove Manor School which, through a partnership with the Franklin Food Bank and the Center of Science and Industry, provided our students the opportunity to feed student minds, bodies and imaginations.

Yes, spring has arrived, and with that district staff and students are looking forward to the end of the school year and all the excitement it brings. Our middle school students have recently found out which campus of Franklin Middle School they will be attending next year. Our college bound seniors are making final decisions on where they will continue their education and those students in our career and technical programs continue to hone their skills looking forward to their place in the workforce. In this newsletter, we recognize with gratitude, some of the best of our district workforce, the 2022-2023 Educators of the Year. We also focus on one of the most fulfilling positions in the district, the paraprofessional.

Under the guidance of the Board of Education, we as a learning community continue to work toward the district goals established by the Board and look forward to reviewing the input of the larger Franklin community that was submitted as part of the Board of Education's strategic plan process. We expect that new strategic plan to be approved by the Board prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Many thanks to the members of the community who took time to provide their input into the development of the Board's new plan.

I encourage you to visit our website at [www.franklinboe.org](http://www.franklinboe.org) or follow Warrior News on social media Twitter @WNNews\_FTFS and Instagram @wnews\_ftfs to learn more about our dedicated staff, talented students and innovative programs. Until next time, thank you for your continued support.

### FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nancy LaCorte, President  
Ardaman Singh, Vice President  
Nishita Desai  
William Grippo  
Dr. Dennis Hopkins, Jr.  
Walter Jackson  
Laurie Merris  
Dr. Michael J. Smith  
Sami Shaban

## Feeding Minds, Lives, and Imaginations at Pine Grove Manor School

The roar of excited students at Pine Grove Manor Elementary School just before spring recess was reminiscent of the rocket engine their guest spoke of. Getting the crowd of children in grades Pre-K - 5 all fired up that afternoon was Mr. Derek Smith, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Bank. The man speaking of the rocket was Stephen White, VP of Strategy & Partnerships of COSI, the Center of Science and Industry based in Columbus, Ohio. Among the guests on hand to watch and participate were Kate Barry, representative from the Somerset County Commissioners Office; representatives from Franklin Township, Councilmember Ram Anbarasan; Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation Windy White; Members of the Board of Education President Nancy LaCorte and William Grippo; district administrators Superintendent Dr. John Ravally; Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Daniel Loughran; Science Supervisor Eric Siegal and PTO Presidents Council President Nicolas DiMeglio. Calmly coordinating the scene was Principal Genesi Miles, her bilingual interpreters, and the rest of her very efficient staff.

Why all the excitement? Well, the over 400 students at PGM were not only counting down to a six-day vacation from school. They were going to see a cool science rocket launch in their own gymnasium and take a free science kit home so they could perform the launch and other activities with their families.

### Feeding Minds

What the students were taking home was a Learning Lunchbox provided by the COSI, the "Best Science Museum in the Country" as voted by USA Today's 10 Best. This box was filled with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities which focused on space travel, specifically NASA's upcoming Artemis missions. At the assembly, students were shown a vapor cloud using dry ice which looks similar to the cloud that follows a rocket and the "launch" of a rocket in the form of a plastic container filled with antacid tablets, water and pressure. As each canister soared in the gym, the eyes of the students and the volume of their voices was drawn upward.

### Feeding Lives

Learning Lunchboxes have traditionally been distributed alongside meal programs and in Franklin, COSI partnered with the Franklin Food Bank. FFB Executive Director Smith said, "We believe strongly that to eradicate food insecurity in the communities that we support and serve, strategic partnerships - across industries, like this one - must be established." To that end, every student at PGM was also given a "goodie bag" from Franklin Food Bank to bring home that afternoon. Inside the bag was an invitation to return to the school and pick up boxes of perishable and non-perishable food to help feed families over the spring recess. Boxes were also loaded into other cars as students were picked up from school. About 200 families were served over a two-day pick-up period. "Families were overwhelmingly grateful as we placed the boxes of fresh produce and non-perishables in the vehicles and shocked by the amount of food given to them as a 'gift'," noted Principal Miles.

### Feeding Imaginations

NASA's Artemis Learning Lunchboxes distributed at this event are aimed to inspire youth and families, highlighting the diversity of STEM efforts at NASA as well as the agency's upcoming Artemis missions, which include landing the first woman and person of color on the Moon and helping prepare for human exploration of Mars. This event was aimed at feeding the imaginations of PGM students as well. Principal Miles explains, "Showing students what science looks like and discussing how the first person of color and the first woman are preparing to step on the moon on the next Artemis mission at our COSI event at PGM sends a strong message to our students: you are capable of loving and learning science too!"

The students at PGM agree, as one student shouted at the end of the assembly, "Science Rules!"



Students at PGM create vapor clouds with Principal Miles (center)  
Food Bank Staff and Stephen White of COSI (right)



Franklin Food Bank Executive Director Derek Smith;  
PGM Principal Miles; Asst. Supt. Dr. Daniel Loughran  
and Superintendent Ravally gather outside of PGM.



## From the Board of Education President

As the very proud President of the Board of Education, I would like to inform you that the Franklin Township Board of Education has earned Board Certification from the New Jersey School Board Association's (NJSBA) Board Member Academy. I, myself, had also earned Master Board Member Certification earlier this year and will become a Certified Board Leader shortly. As the NJSBA website attests, "Through Board Certification, the Board Member Academy recognizes mastery of the unique aspects of group process. How board members work together and with their superintendent determines the success of their deliberations." Board members are required to take mandated training offered through NJSBA and we take advantage of additional training throughout the year,

Part of the certification process is group training which our Board recently completed at a special board meeting earlier this year. In addition to the NJSBA training, the Board received an update on the district's progress toward this year's goals as well as equity training from Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion, Mr. Daryn Plummer.

This training was similar to the training that district staff has received. Every month a dedicated team of staff members from each school meet together as a group to receive Culturally Linguistic (CLR) Pedagogy training from Mr. Plummer and Dr. Lanise Stevenson, our CLR consultant from Johns Hopkins. CLR leverages and utilizes the cultural learning tools that students bring to the classroom to make learning more relevant and effective. This core group of staff then turn key the training to their colleagues. We recognized this core group of educators at a recent board meeting.

Board of Education members bring our experiences, talents, and priorities to our diverse board and work together as a team, much like CLR. We establish district goals for the Superintendent who works with his staff toward establishing goals and priorities for the district. We live the District's Mission Statement, "Franklin Township Public Schools embraces its diversity, fosters excellent educational innovation and empowers all students to achieve their highest potential." We are all extremely committed to fulfilling our mission for our students. It is what guides us in our goal setting and decision making.

Recognizing dedication is a theme of our board meetings this year. The Board has acknowledged the many hard-working and dedicated volunteers who have supported our athletes, the arts, and extracurricular activities over the years. Some of those volunteers were parents of students who graduated years ago, some are community members and staff members who want to give back, and some are our student volunteers.

We have an incredibly dedicated and talented staff. Many of us are still feeling the effects of the pandemic, yet our staff show up every day, work hard, and try to inspire our students. They, too, juggle busy lives and volunteer with organizations that support our students, our community, and their own communities.

I would also like to recognize the volunteerism and dedication of my colleagues on the Board. We are elected volunteers with very busy BOE schedules and lives. We volunteer within the district, community, and wherever our passions take us. I personally have found volunteering incredibly rewarding and I encourage everyone to get involved with the district by joining a school sponsored organization and donating your time, talent, or funds to support our students. There are also so many worthwhile organizations that are desperately seeking volunteers. Get involved!

My Warrior pride is clearly woven throughout this article. All of the people I have mentioned are doing what we do for our students. Speaking of our students, the events of the last few years have inspired many to not only develop a voice for change, but to use it by working with school administrators to improve their school culture. These students are not afraid to be heard. A group of our Warriors sat down with visiting Superintendents and leaders from other districts earlier this year at a workshop of the NJ Network of Superintendents to explain how they felt in Franklin High School, and those visitors were impressed by what they heard. We were fortunate to have the FHS guitar ensemble "open" our March board meeting. We all recently enjoyed the performances of The Wiz at FMS and FHS student-driven production of The Descendants. In school, out of school, and post high school, our students continue to excel and shine. The community is welcome to attend our school events, the schedules are on the website. If you don't already know, you will see why we are so proud of our Franklin Warriors!

Please keep watching for the achievements of our students and reach out to us, because we are your Board of Education,

Nancy LaCorte  
President, Franklin Township Board of Education  
Master Board Member

### 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.

## Paraprofessionals at FTSPS - Making a Difference to Children Everyday

Paraprofessionals perform a wide variety of tasks in Franklin Township Public Schools to support the district's specialized populations and programs. They may assist the teacher in setting up the classroom; greet students when the bus arrives and escort them to the classroom; model instructions the teacher has given or sit with a small group and re-enforce a lesson the teacher has taught. They may assist students in the lunchroom engage and help them to develop language skills and play. They may help older students learn important life skills such as cooking or doing laundry or accompany them on field experiences in the community. But being a paraprofessional is so much more than a series of tasks. To some it is a calling, a chance to truly make a difference in a child's life. Several district paraprofessionals shared their thoughts on their chosen careers, let's hear from them.

*What are the advantages of working as a paraprofessional in FTSPS?* "I believe the advantage of working as a paraprofessional is being able to truly make a difference in a student's educational experience," says Nancy Llanos, a 10 year veteran of FTSPS. Anna Boardman, the district's Paraprofessional Coordinator continues, "As a Paraprofessional you have the unique opportunity to be a true advocate for your students." Ms. Boardman says, "Some individuals become paraprofessionals because they are looking for a job with benefits and the ability to have the summer months off."

*Why did you become a paraprofessional?* Terez Mekhail, became a paraprofessional with the district about two years ago after working for many years as a school bus driver. She loved working with children and thought she could help them more as a paraprofessional. Elizabeth Scafidi, who has worked for the district for 17 years, comes from a family who works in the education field and feels that working with children was already in her blood, she says, "The magic of this job is to know that I'm doing it for love, not just a way to make it a living."

*What is the best part of working as a paraprofessional?* "The best part of a para's work is to enable the student to become independent," says Ms. Mekhail. Ms. Llanos finds the ability to build relationships with students and to be able to provide the support that they may require very satisfying. As for Ms. Scafidi, she appreciates that her students come to school to gain knowledge and grow but at the same time, they teach her more about patience and how to appreciate the small accomplishments in life.

*What is your most memorable moment?* Ms. Scafidi joined her students on stage to dance during an assembly. "It was the first time for the students to be in front of an audience. It was so amazing to see their smiles and the whole school was so impressed with their performance," she says. Ms. Llanos, recalls the day when a student in the autism program won his grade-level spelling bee. While the student was non verbal, he was able to write the words he was asked to spell as part of the competition. Ms. Llanos continues, "He made it to the last round of the spelling bee and won when he was able to write out the proper spelling of a word the other finalist had misspelled. Seeing him win was a very proud moment for all of us in the autism program!"

Working as a team and taking pride in making a difference in the life of a child is what being a paraprofessional is all about. If you think you might be interested in joining the FTSPS team of paras, check the district website under employment opportunities or contact Ms. Boardman at [aboardman@franklinboe.org](mailto:aboardman@franklinboe.org) for more information.



Paraprofessional dances with students at an "Abilities Day" celebration.





# FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## DISTRICT EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

### 2022-2023



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 an individual, 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 2022-2023 District Educators of the Year.***

### 2022-2023 Franklin Township Public Schools (FTPS) - District Educators of the Year

School	Teacher	Educational Services Professional
<b>Franklin High School FHS</b>	<b>Matthew Young, Social Studies Teacher</b> , has worked for the district for his entire 11 year career. He is currently a spring track assistant coach and a freshman basketball coach. He chose a career in education to try to positively impact students in the same way that his teachers and coaches impacted him. “Be grateful for the opportunity,” is one of his favorite quotes.	<b>Theresa Kamen, Paraprofessional</b> , has spent her entire 6 year career as a paraprofessional at FHS. What she loves most about working in our district is working with a student, who is trying so hard to understand something, and then it all falls into place and they get it. "Be nice, Be kind, or Be quiet" is her favorite quote.
<b>Franklin Middle School @ Hamilton Street Campus HSC</b>	<b>Lauren Servedio, Special Education Teacher</b> , is in her 5th year working for FTPS. She chose a career in education because she has always had a love of special needs students. What she likes most about teaching in Franklin Township is the staff and students she works with every day. She says she could not do her job without the paraprofessionals that she works with.	<b>Deborah Cooke, Literacy Coach</b> , has been in the education field for 18 years. She has been in our district for 17 years teaching 7th/8th grade Mass Media, ELA and is now a literacy coach at FMS@HSC. She has always wanted to be a teacher and work with students especially to share her love of books and reading.
<b>Franklin Middle School @ Sampson G. Smith Campus SGS</b>	<b>Robin Both, Science Teacher</b> , has been with the district for 12 years. She has been lucky enough to follow in her mentor's footsteps and teach both 6th and 8th grade science. During her time in Franklin, she was encouraged by administrators to advance her career in educational leadership and administration. Robin’s favorite quote: "What would you attempt to do if you knew you would not fail?" - Robert Schuller	<b>Florence Gonzalez-Perez, Paraprofessional</b> , has worked in the district for 14 years. She chose a career in education because she saw the hard work teachers and paras did for her son, which made her want to help other students as well. What she likes most about our district are the many positive things put in place for our students to succeed.
<b>Claremont Elementary School CES</b>	<b>Shannon Sorbino, Special Education Teacher</b> , has worked in the district since 2007. She feels lucky to have had special teachers in the past that inspired her to become a teacher. She wanted to be able to create and provide positive experiences for students, where they were able to feel special and cared for - similar to how her previous teachers made her feel.	<b>Nancy Llanos, Paraprofessional</b> , began working in the autism program at Hillcrest in 2013 and has been at Claremont Elementary School since 2019. She wanted to be able to serve the students in the district's autism program, to provide support to help them reach their full potential, and achieve academic and social success.
<b>Conerly Road School CRS</b>	<b>Rania Saba, Elementary Teacher</b> , has been at FTPS for 5 years. She is currently a doctoral student at Rowen University. Her identity as a teacher and calling to live a beautiful life committed to the ideals of democracy, fair play, and equality continues to evolve day in and day out. Teaching keeps her intellectually alive, it allows her to reinvent herself every day!	<b>Karen Melhorn, Paraprofessional</b> , is in her 25th year at FTPS. While in college, Karen chose education as a major and believes it is an excellent job to have with a family. The thing she loves most about our district is the connections made along the way, and the long-lasting effects made on the students. She has enjoyed her time in Franklin, and will be retiring in June.
<b>Elizabeth Avenue School EAS</b>	<b>Eva Barabas, Literacy Teacher</b> , has been with the district for 5 years. She chose to be an educator because she is passionate about working with students. As an English language learner, she felt that she could help students who have difficulty with language acquisition because she related to them and understood their struggles.	<b>Emily Desai, SPED Instructional Coach</b> , has been with our district for 5 years. She decided she wanted to be a teacher at a young age, and as she got older, realized that her calling was in special education. She loves watching the children learn, grow, and progress over the year(s) that she is with them.
<b>Franklin Park School FPS</b>	<b>Ashley Anthal, Elementary Teacher</b> , has been with our district for 14 years. She has always had a passion for working with children in any capacity. Teaching allows her to watch students learn and grow and in turn she gets to grow and learn from them as well.	<b>Disha Hinduja, Paraprofessional</b> , has been with FTPS for 21 years. She realized while teaching her children in their early stages of education that she had a passion to teach others. This passion has continued to grow throughout her years as a paraprofessional.
<b>Hillcrest School HIL</b>	<b>Melissa Dalere, Elementary Teacher</b> , has been with the district for 18 years. As a child, she would play school, which evolved into her becoming a babysitter and working in an after school program. She enjoys fostering a love of learning within her students and celebrating their success. There's nothing more rewarding than that!	<b>Maddy Michaylin, Paraprofessional</b> , has been in the district for 20 years. She chose a career in education because she loves working with children and helping them reach all their goals. What she likes most about working in our district is the diverse culture and the many opportunities to enhance the lives of others.
<b>MacAfee Road School MAC</b>	<b>Jean Motard, Elementary Teacher</b> , has been in the FTPS district for 16 years. She has always loved school, especially reading. She is thankful to get to share that love with others every day. As Margaret Elizabeth Sangster said, “No one should teach who is not in love with teaching.”	<b>Hema Devanathan, ESP</b> , has been in our district for 5 years. She believes teaching is a highly rewarding career, and what she loves most about this role is that it gives her the great opportunity to use her creative skills to help children.
<b>Pine Grove Manor School PGM</b>	<b>Edgar Vazquez Molina, Bilingual ESL Teacher</b> has been with FTPS for 5 years. He believes ESL and bilingual education are critical resources needed to help immigrant students and families. He knows he can support his students in acquiring the skills they need to succeed.	<b>Patricia Bertelle, Paraprofessional</b> has been part of the district for 5 years. She always had an ease in communicating with children and is glad to have the opportunity to dedicate herself to them. She also enjoys working as an interpreter for her bilingual students.



# Franklin Students Celebrate, and See Themselves, in Black and Women's History

Earlier this spring the students of Franklin Township Public Schools recognized Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March) in a variety of ways. While most of the activities that recognize a specifically themed month are coordinated by school clubs and school administrators, this year the social studies department brought two mobile museums to the elementary schools. These "Museums In Motion" exhibitions, entitled *African American Firsts* and *Amazing African American Women*, contained photos and other artifacts such as clothing. "A phenomenal team of elementary teachers then put together a list of videos, readings, learning activities, and escape rooms, on some of the individuals that were featured in the museums to support the students' learning," said Social Studies Supervisor, Justin Miller.

To further support and give students "ownership" of the museum, Teresa Carnese and other teachers from the art department created themed projects for the students to create. "The goal was to have students' artwork alongside other artifacts from the mobile museum so they could make a visual connection of how they all are connected and represented," explained Fine, Visual, Performing and Practical Arts Supervisor, Cesar Rainho. These projects included abstract art collages using asymmetrical shapes in the style of artist Reggie Laurent; freedom quilts in the style of Gee's Bend, a tradition of a rural African American community in Alabama that dates back to the 1870s; and student depiction of inspirational words from a poem by Amanda Gorman, the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate.

At the high school level, students in the third year of the Aspects of Video Program produced episodes for WANT TV which were dedicated to black and women's history. WANT TV is a series of segments which are shown to all students in FHS during the week and posted on their YouTube Channel (Want TV @ wanttv1258). A highlight of Women's History Month this year was a compilation video of FHS seniors assuming the persona of famous women in the areas of politics, history, entertainment and athletics. Another feature, celebrating a woman closer to home, was a "Talkshow Tuesday" episode where Isabel Pomerantz, a member of the WANT TV cast, interviewed FHS female wrestler CeCe Condado a FHS athlete who broke school history records by being the first female wrestler to place in a state competition.

Black History Month at FTPS also witnessed a FHS alumnus returning to Franklin Middle School to perform in a play called, *Lift Every Voice: A Letter to the Editor*. Mr. Joshua Hendricks, Class of 2018 and a veteran on the visual arts program at FHS, was part of a group called the Pushcart Players. This touring repertory company specializes in providing professional theater to foster student understanding, participation and engagement in the arts and was brought to the district by FHS retired drama teacher, Ms. Ellen Beattie. The play depicted a young black man in the 1960's South and how he learned to use his own voice to address segregation and try to change the minds of those around him.

The events and activities of Black History and Women's History Months provided opportunities to students to use their own voice as well as see themselves as part of a larger history. In one class a supervisor observed a student who was watching a video of Reggie Laurant say, "He looks like my Dad." In another class, a student shared her own family's quilt during the project and was able to trace her origins. The FHS seniors who depicted famous women commented on the feeling of empowerment they shared with those they studied.

"Through the equity and inclusion work of our educators we are striving to provide opportunities for all of our students, in all areas of our curriculum, to see themselves and be inspired," said Dr. Daniel Loughran, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "Celebrating the rich diversity of Franklin Township Public Schools does not begin and end in any particular month, but is our task every day."



FHS's Talk Show Tuesday Celebrates Women's History Month



FTPS Alumni Joshua Hendricks returns to FMS in a Pushcart Player production for Black History Month

## Students in FTPS Get Moving

Conerly Road Elementary School is taking part in a pilot program with Rutgers University this spring in their Culture of Health School Program. The purpose of this program is to foster and promote healthy lifestyles in today's youth in the context of physical activity and nutrition education. One of the kindergarten lessons looked like this. Physical Education teacher, Kevin Osman, who has been with the district for nine years, led his students into the gym and started the class with some music. This was the cue for the children to start moving around using a variety of locomotor skills. Sometimes it was a gallop, other times a walk or a run, but when the music stopped, everyone had to "freeze" until the next motor skill was named. The joy on the faces of the students was inspiring. "The students love this class," said Mr. Osman, "it gives them a chance to release all of the physical energy that has built up when they were sitting in their other classes."

Next it was time for a review, "last week we talked about the heart and what we can do to keep it healthy and this week we are going to talk about strength," said one of the two special guests at the class. These guests are students from Rutgers who help facilitate the program. They led the class through an age-appropriate video about the body's muscles and then the students were back to moving about to music. When the music stopped, a group was chosen to perform an exercise that Rutgers' students demonstrated. Finally, when the class was almost at an end, the students were guided through a meditation video so they could slow down their heart rate. The video also explained how this type of focus could help the students if they were anxious about something.

The program has six lessons which focus on physical literacy, such as strength, coordination, and balance and six lessons on nutritional literacy with units on such topics as hydration and the parts of a plant. "Quality nutrition is essential for a healthy life," said Sean Thomas, Supervisor of Health and Physical Education in the district. "We want our students to adopt good food habits at a young age and encourage them to continue that throughout life."

The Rutgers students who assisted Mr. Osman echo those thoughts, "We know that childhood obesity is a problem in the US and combating that requires efforts to encourage healthy eating choices as well as encouraging consistent physical activity," said Rabiah Mian, a Public Health major, "I hope with the courses we have introduced that it helps cement a foundation for students to build on." Fellow student, Jillian Chapman sees that foundation being built, "My favorite part of participating in this program is seeing how quickly the children are able to employ the new information when engaging in various activities."

Students at Franklin Park School (FPS) were recently introduced to a variety of activities and facts about keeping your heart healthy through the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge. Ms. Melanie Dixon, a representative of the organization attended an assembly at FPS and spoke about behaviors that help your heart. She went on to explain that some children are born with special hearts that require surgeries and that individuals can make a difference to help these children through fundraising and by learning skills such as hands only CPR. During the assembly Ms. Dixon challenged a group of students and staff to move, that is to jump rope, as an example of a heart health activity, while the rest of the crowd cheered them on. Both students and staff seemed to enjoy the activity, especially Principal Rebekah Solomon who that day lasted the longest in the staff jump rope challenge.



Principal Solomon and her staff members jump rope during a healthy heart assembly.



Rutgers students encourage CRS students to exercise.

## FHS Dance on Tour The Reviews Are In

*It gives my heart joy, to see our FHS Scholars show their talents in Fine Arts, specifically in Dance with our next generation of High School students. This epitomizes what a Warrior For Life truly represents, giving back and lifting up the next generation. I am so proud of our students for their willingness to put a smile on our elementary students' faces and displaying the wonderful programming we have at FHS. - FHS Principal Dr. Solomon*

*Our students were so impressed by the FHS dancers that one of the students asked "Are these professional dancers?" Other students shared their enthusiasm about one day joining the Dance Troupe at the middle school or high school. - PGM Principal Miles*



*EAS tigers appreciated the opportunity to see SGS and FHS dance troupe. Our school community was amazed by dance assemblies that were put on display by our secondary teams. Our students had the opportunity to ask questions which supported their passion and understanding. EAS tigers came out of the assembly asking how they can work on their skills to be just like them. - EAS Principal Romero*

*FPS students were amazed at how talented our FHS singers and dancers were. Multiple students told me they could not wait to join the middle school and ultimately high school performers. - FPS Principal Solomon*

*Our Conerly Road School students were inspired by seeing the Franklin High School students perform. The performance allowed our students to dream about their own goals and future successes, and it showed them a pathway to meeting these dreams here in the Franklin Township Public Schools. - CRS Principal Heras*



## Calling All Warriors

The district is calling all Franklin Warriors to join us in a special video project we are creating this year. If you attended Franklin Township Public Schools please take a moment to check out the survey linked to the QR code and share your favorite memories of your time at school. If you would like to lend your voice and image to our project, follow the code for instructions to submit your own video about what it means to be a Franklin Warrior. We will share these video shorts on our YouTube and Instagram platforms.