



Franklin Township – A Sustainable Jersey Silver Certified Municipality

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Fall 2023

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Franklin Day Returns to Colonial Park!

Please join us for our 8th Annual Franklin Day on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Colonial Park, Knob Hill Grove, Lot C in Somerset, NJ as we capture the magic of our community.

Franklin Day is a community-wide celebration featuring live entertainment, food trucks, a classic car show, over 100 exhibitor tables, and a host of FREE attractions for children in a beautiful park setting. The purpose is to bring our diverse community together while providing a showcase for Township businesses, industries, agencies, schools, and community organizations.

Showcasing Our Community

As Franklin's largest single-day event, Franklin Day promises to be a day like no other. Whether you're a music enthusiast, want to learn more about business and services in town, a food lover, or looking for fun activities for the kids, there's something for all ages.

Rockin' Performances

Prepare to be energized by an incredible lineup of artists at the main stage including the incomparable Valarie Adams & the Dimensions and Latin sensation, Swing Sabroso. Our Cultural Stage will feature performances by some of Franklin's best local talent and will shine a spotlight on our Township's cultural diversity.

A Taste of Franklin

Foodies, rejoice! This event is not just about entertainment. Indulge your taste buds in a gastronomic adventure like no other. Your senses will be taken on a delectable journey with offerings of pizza, BBQ, Latin bites, snacks, sweet treats, and more! Make sure to come hungry and leave satisfied!

Save the Date

Mark your calendars because this FREE event is fast approaching. Don't miss the chance to be a part of this wonderful day celebrating Franklin. Gather your friends and loved ones because this is the perfect opportunity to create unforgettable memories together.

See you there!!

2023

FRANKLIN DAY

**COLONIAL PARK
KNOB HILL GROVE** FREE

Main Stage Performers **Saturday**
September 23
12:00-5:00pm

and *Premier Sponsor*

www.FranklinTwpNJ.org/FranklinDay
Franklin.Day@franklinnj.gov
(732) 873-2500 x6428
Sign up for event alerts: **TEXT FranklinDay to 888777**

COMMUNITY FOOD MUSIC FAMILY FUN



Savor the Flavor: Franklin Township's Inaugural Restaurant Week is Here!

OCTOBER 8 - 14, 2023

Get ready to indulge your taste buds like never before, because Franklin Township is about to experience a culinary extravaganza like no other! From October 8th to 14th, our charming Township will transform into a food lover's paradise as restaurants showcase their culinary prowess during Franklin Township's first-ever Restaurant Week! Brace yourselves for a week filled with delectable delights, mouthwatering morsels, and a smorgasbord of flavors that will leave you craving for more.

Whether you're a devoted foodie, a casual diner, or an adventurous eater, Franklin Township's Restaurant Week promises an array of options you won't want to miss! With offerings as diverse as Franklin, Restaurant Week is a golden opportunity to try those dishes you've been hearing about and discover new favorites along the way. Participating restaurants are gearing up to entice new and returning customers with discounts, menu specials, exclusive

menus, and more! Fancy some sizzling tacos? Craving a classic Italian pasta dish? Perhaps you're in the mood for something more adventurous? Whatever your heart desires, our local culinary maestros have got you covered. So, whether you're planning a romantic dinner for two or a solo food adventure, this is your chance to experience the rich flavors that Franklin has to offer.

Franklin Township's Restaurant Week isn't just about the food – it's a fantastic way for Franklinites to support local businesses. Restaurants in Franklin support hundreds of jobs, families, and dreams. By dining out often and at a discount (!), you'll be contributing to the economic growth and success of our community.

So, mark your calendars, set your alarms, and prepare your appetite for an unforgettable culinary journey through Franklin Township. See you at the tables!

For updates, videos, and participating restaurants, visit our official website: <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/RestaurantWeek>



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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

TOWN HALL

732-873-2500

E-MAIL

Township Manager

Bob.Vornlocker@franklinnj.gov

Franklin Times

Franklin.Times@franklinnj.gov

Collector of Revenue

Rossana.Gutierrez@franklinnj.gov

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Board of Education

732-873-2400

www.franklinboe.org

Library

732-873-8700

www.franklintwpnj.org

Sewerage Authority

732-873-2121

Ftsa-nj.org

Health Department/Education

908-231-7155

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

Facebook.com/FranklinTwpSomersetCty/

Facebook.com/FranklinTwpPolice/

Twitter.com/twpoffranklin

Twitter.com/FTPDSomersetNJ

2023 ELECTION INFORMATION

Important Election Dates

General Election Day: *Tuesday, November 7, 2023*

Voter Registration Deadline – *October 17, 2023*

Mail-In Ballot Application Request Deadline – *October 31, 2023*

Early Voting Period - *October 28, 2023 to November 5, 2023*

Mail-In Ballot Return Deadline – In-Person – *November 7, 2023 at 8 p.m.*

Mail-In Ballot Return Deadline—Drop Box –*November 7, 2023 at 8 p.m.*

Mail-In Ballot Return Deadline – Mail – Postmarked – *November 7, 2023*

Voter Registration

You must be a citizen of the United States; you must be 18 years of age on or before the day of the election & you must be a resident of your present address for at least 30 days before the election. Voter Registration Forms can be printed from the Township's website: www.franklintwpnj.org and must be received by the Township Clerk's Office or the Somerset County Board of Elections 21 days prior to Election Day.

Voting by Mail-In Ballot

You may vote by Mail-In-Ballot for any election. You do not need a reason. You must apply for a mail-in ballot by completing a *Mail-In Ballot Application*. Application Forms can also be obtained from the Somerset County Clerk's Office and the Franklin Township's Clerk Office. Mail-In Ballots are to be mailed to the County Clerk's Office postmarked by November 7, 2023 or placed in Drop Box at the Municipal Building by 8:00 p.m. on November 7, 2023. The County Clerk cannot accept faxes or electronic copies, as an original signature is required. You may apply in person at the County Clerk's office up to 3:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

Early Voting

Early Voting takes place from Saturday, October 28, 2023 through Sunday, November 5, 2023 at the Community/Senior Center located at 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ. Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday thru Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Anyone in Somerset County may vote at this polling location during this time period.

Drop Box

There is a Drop Box for Mail-In Ballots for all Somerset County municipalities located in front of the Municipal Building. The box will open approximately a month before Election Day and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on November 7, 2023.

District(s)	Location
1	Kingston Presbyterian Church 4565 Route 27, Kingston
2, 3, & 4	Griggstown Firehouse 1037 Canal Road, Princeton
5, 6, 8, 9, 30, 31, 32, 33 & 34	Board of Education Admin. Bldg. (formerly Consolata Missions) 2301 Route 27, Somerset
7	Beacon Hill Clubhouse 1 Beaconhill Way, Franklin Park
10	Society Hill I Clubhouse 137 Pear Tree Lane, Franklin Park
11, 12, & 13	Zarephath Children's Ministry Center 595 Weston Canal Rd, Somerset
14, 15, & 16	Masjid-E-Ali 47 Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset
17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 28, & 29	Community/Senior Center 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset
20, 21 & 22	Quailbrook Senior Citizens Center 625 New Brunswick Rd., Somerset
23, 49, 50 & 51	Somerset Presbyterian Church 100 JFK Blvd., Somerset
26 & 27	Millstone Valley Firehouse 2365 Amwell Road, East Millstone
35, 36, 37, 38 & 42	Somerset National Guard Armory 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset
39, 40, 41 & 43	Parkside Community Center 3 Parkside Street, Somerset
44, 45, 46, 47 & 48	East Franklin Firehouse 121 Pine Grove Avenue, Somerset

Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER 9	Blood Drive
SEPTEMBER 9	Free Rabies Clinic - CATS
SEPTEMBER 9	Family Fun Day—Youth Center
SEPTEMBER 23	Franklin Day
SEPTEMBER 30	Bicycle Rodeo
SEPTEMBER 30	Municipal Art Opening
OCTOBER 8-14	Restaurant Week
NOVEMBER 7	Election Day
DECEMBER 9	Free Rabies Clinic - DOGS ONLY

welcome NEW HIRES



Daryl Gregory	Zoning Inspector
Lakshmi Suruliraj	PT Program Assistant
Carron McCluney	Police Officer
Laura Johnson	PT Program Assistant
Jammillah Alexis	Violations Bureau Clerk
Michael Quat	Violations Bureau Clerk
Samaris Sanchez	Violations Bureau Clerk
Kisha Harrison	PT Clerical
Carol Radziewicz	Deputy Tax Assessor
Michael Kraus	Part Time Animal Handler
Galvin Calvo	Laborer - No CDL
Bernie Marquez	Laborer - No CDL

thank you RETIREES

Carl Eby	Deputy Tax Assessor	38 Years
Dawn Flanders	Sr. Police Officer	24 Years

<https://franklintwpnj.org>

<https://franklintwpnj.org/enotification>

<https://nixle.com/township-of-franklin>
Text your zip code to 888777

@FranklinTwpSomersetCty
@FranklinTwpRecreation
@FranklinTwpPolice

@TwpofFranklin
@FTPDSomersetNJ

@TwpofFranklin_NJ
@FranklinYouthCenter
@FTPDSomersetNJ

@TownshipofFranklin

Comcast 29; Verizon 33
<https://franklintwpnj.org/stream>

WRBX AM1630

Be in the know

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

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



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PRESENTS
A COMMUNITY POP UP EVENT

THE *Not Quite* WINE & CHEESE
ART OPENING
Saturday, September 30, 2023
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Franklin Township Municipal Building
475 DeMott Lane | Somerset, NJ

Come and enjoy an eclectic mix of local artists at Franklin's first Pop Up Art Gallery. Attendees will have an opportunity to experience the arts, meet the artists, and enjoy refreshments as the Franklin Township Municipal Building is transformed into a gallery of Franklin Township's most talented!

Need More Info: Email Special.Projects@franklinnj.gov

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
ADMISSION IS FREE | RSVPs ARE APPRECIATED | WALK-INS ARE WELCOME.

Renaissance Cyclists Defeating Cancer United
Bike to Fight Prostate Cancer
Saturday, September 16, 2023
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
RAIN OR SHINE




Rides For All Levels:

- 30 & 50 mile rides for the experienced rider - \$45.00
- 10 miles for the casual fun rider - \$35.00
- 3-mile Walk/Ride - \$15.00

EVENT START/FINISH LOCATION
Franklin Township Community Senior Center
505 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
Delicious Lunch, Music & Awards at Noon

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.Active.com or www.rcdcu.org



Property Tax Relief Programs

Senior/Disabled \$250 Deduction: Annual deduction of up to \$250 from property taxes for homeowners 65 or older or disabled who meet certain income and residency requirements.

Veteran \$250 Deduction: Annual deduction of up to \$250 from property taxes due for qualified war veterans or a veteran who served in peacekeeping missions and operations. This deduction also is available to a surviving spouse/civil union/domestic partner who has not remarried.

Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans: Full exemption from property taxes on a principal residence for certain totally and permanently disabled war veterans and veterans who served in peacekeeping missions and operations. This exemption also is available to a surviving spouse/civil union/domestic partner who has not remarried. The above benefit applications can be picked up at the Franklin Twp. Tax Assessor's Office.

Property Tax Reimbursement (Senior Freeze): State run program that allows seniors of 65 or older, or receiving federal Social Security disability benefit payments, who have lived in New Jersey for at least 10 years and who have their home for at least 3 years for a reimbursement for each year from the base year who meet certain income requirements. This reimbursement will be in a form of a check to the applicant. For an application, please call 1(800) 882-6597 or visit <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml>

Affordable New Jersey Communities for Homeowners and Renters (ANCHOR): Applications are mailed to the property or can be requested by phone to 1(888) 238-1233. Homeowner must meet certain income and residency requirements to qualify for the credit against property taxes. Eligibility requirements can be accessed at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/anchor/index.shtml>



ATTENTION Homeowners:

CONSTRUCTION AMNESTY IS BACK AT THE FRANKLIN DAY FESTIVAL



Have you done work in your home and you didn't know (or weren't quite sure) you needed a construction permit? Or do you feel a prior owner did work without permits and you don't know what to do? If you answered yes to any of the above, please stop by the Franklin Township Construction Department table at the **FRANKLIN DAY FESTIVAL** on **Saturday, September 23, 2023** from **12:00 pm - 5:00 pm** and talk to us about your concerns.

Here at the Construction Department, SAFETY is our primary goal! If it turns out that permits were required on a particular project done in your home, we will be offering amnesty on any penalties that may apply. In order to be eligible, you must register with us on Franklin Day, and you must apply for the appropriate permits by October 27, 2023.

Please remember that the amnesty program only applies to current Franklin Township homeowners for work done in their home and does not apply to any violations that have already been issued.



September to December 2023 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Township Council
Municipal Building, Council Chambers,
7:00 p.m.
Sept. 12, 26 • Oct. 10, 24 • Nov. 13 (Mon.), 28
• Dec. 12

Planning Board
Municipal Building, Council Chambers,
7:30 p.m.
Sept. 6, 20 • Oct. 4, 18 • Nov. 1 • Dec. 6, 20

Zoning Board of Adjustment
Municipal Building, Council Chambers,
7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7, 21 • Oct. 5, 19 • Nov. 2 • Dec. 7, 21

Advisory Board of Health
Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:30 p.m.
Sept. 6 • Oct. 4 • Nov. 1 • Dec. 6

Advisory Recreation Council
Community Senior Center/Youth Center,
6:00 p.m.
Sept. 6 • Oct. 4 • Nov. 8 • Dec. 6

Agricultural Advisory Committee
Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
8:00 p.m.
Sept. 7 • Oct. 5 • Nov. 2 • Dec. 7

Environmental Commission
Municipal Building, Council Chambers,
7:00 p.m.
Sept. 18 • Oct. 2, 16, 30 • Nov. 6, 20 •
Dec. 4, 18

Fire Prevention Board
Municipal Building,
7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7 • Oct. 12 • Nov. 9 • Dec. 14

Hamilton Street Advisory Board
Municipal Building, Council Chambers,
7:00 p.m.
Sept. 11 • Oct. 2 • Nov. 6 • Dec. 4

Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:30 p.m.
Sept. 5 • Oct. 3 • Nov. 14 • Dec. 5

Housing Authority
25 Parkside Street, 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 13 • Oct. 11 • Nov. 8 • Dec. 13

Human Relations Commission
Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:00 p.m.
Sept. 27 • Oct. 25 • Nov. – No Meeting
Dec. 13

Library Board of Trustees
5:45 p.m.
Sept. 27 • Oct. 25 • Nov. 15 • Dec. 27

Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Substance Abuse/Youth Services Commission
Community Senior Center/Youth Center,
4:30 p.m.
Sept. 27 • Oct. 25 • Nov. 22 • Dec. 27

Open Space Advisory Committee
Municipal Building,
7:00 p.m.
Sept. 19 • Oct. 17 • Nov. 21 • Dec. 19

Redevelopment Agency
Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:30 p.m.
Sept. 18 • Oct. 16 • Nov. 20 • Dec. 18

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
Community Senior Center,
10:00 a.m.
Sept. 22 • Oct. 27 • Nov. 17 • Dec. 15

Sewerage Authority
70 Commerce Drive,
6:30 p.m.
Sept. 5 • Oct. 3 • Nov. 8 (Wed.) • Dec. 5

Shade Tree Commission
Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:00 p.m.
Sept. 28 • Oct. 26 • Nov. 16
Dec. – No Meeting

Trails Advisory Committee
Municipal Building, Large Conference Room,
7:00 p.m.
Sept. 13 • Oct. 11 • Nov. 8 • Dec. 13

Follow Us on Facebook

Franklin Township, Somerset County is excited to announce our new Facebook pages for Franklin Township, Franklin Township Police, and Franklin Township Recreation. This initiative aims to strengthen communication, engagement, and community-building efforts within the Township.

The new Facebook pages reflect Franklin Township's commitment to providing valuable information, fostering community connections, and enhancing the overall user experience. The pages will offer a more streamlined design, improved functionality, and an updated content strategy to better serve the diverse needs and interests of residents, visitors, and stakeholders.

Key features and benefits of the new Facebook pages include:

1. **User-Friendly Navigation:** The redesigned pages will offer intuitive navigation, making it easier for users to find the information they need. Important sections such as news updates, events, services, and resources will be readily accessible.
2. **Engaging Content:** The new pages will feature a variety of engaging content, including community news, important announcements, safety tips, recreational activities, and opportunities for public participation. Users can expect relevant and timely updates to keep them informed and involved.
3. **Interactive Community Engagement:** Franklin Township understands the importance of fostering a sense of community. The new pages will encourage active community engagement, allowing residents to connect, share their experiences, and participate in discussions related to township matters.
4. **Improved Accessibility:** The new Facebook pages will prioritize accessibility by ensuring that information and updates are easily accessible to all users, including individuals with disabilities. Efforts will be made to comply with accessibility standards and make the content more inclusive.

Franklin Township invites residents, businesses, community organizations, and other stakeholders to join and follow the new Facebook pages:

- Franklin Township Somerset NJ: <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinTwpSomersetCty/>
- Franklin Township Police Somerset NJ: <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinTwpPolice/>
- Franklin Township Recreation Somerset NJ: <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinTwpRecreation/>

By following these pages, users will stay up to date with the latest news, events, programs, and initiatives from Franklin Township, Somerset County NJ, along with the Police Department, and Recreation Department.

About Franklin Township Somerset County, NJ: Franklin Township, Somerset County is a vibrant and diverse community located in Somerset County, New Jersey. The township provides exceptional services, fostering community engagement, and promoting the overall well-being of its residents. For more information about Franklin Township, Somerset County, NJ, visit <https://www.franklintwpnj.org>.

Discover additional ways to stay connected with us! Explore our township's website at <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/subscribe> to access a wide range of communication and social media channels we offer.



Hella Franklin!

Join us as we explore some of the wonderful places and faces that make up our community of Franklin Township. Franklin celebrates two charitable institutions as they mark a milestone 25 years.

The Center for Great Expectations: Hope...and so much more...Lives Here

In 1998, a scared, pregnant 17-year-old was desperately searching for help and a place to stay. She found The Center for Great Expectations (CGE) in the yellow pages of the phone book. She was one of 12 pregnant women and teens that Great Expectations opened its doors to that year. Initially, located in a little two-bedroom house in Somerville, The Center for Great Expectations broke ground in 2006 on construction for its twin buildings in Somerset that CGE, today, calls home.

The Center for Great Expectations is a multi-faceted, transformational agency whose residential program focuses on pregnant and parenting women and adolescents who find themselves caught in a generational cycle of trauma, abuse, and neglect. They do so with support from all facets of the community. In 2022, 17th District Assemblyman, Joseph Danielsen, garnered \$1,500,000 and another \$500,000 this year in support.



Celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, Founder and CEO Peg Wright reflects back on those early days, "When we first opened our doors 25 years ago, while we provided women with a safe place while they were pregnant, we didn't have the room to take them back in once they had their babies. So, we would refer them to the local shelter in Somerville. It was sad; and it wasn't what we wanted it to be. Offering a safe place, safe presence, and a safe path became our mission in 1998. As we have grown exponentially in 25 years, we have stayed true to that mission, something we are very proud of."

CGE's programs offer an opportunity that few programs make available to clients. For a pregnant woman or adolescent seeking help to overcome her substance use, only 26% of the treatment facilities in the country are willing to offer them treatment; and only 2% of all treatment facilities in the country welcome pregnant and parenting adolescents who want to stay with their young children while seeking treatment. As Peg explains, "At CGE, we believe – and have the data that demonstrates – it is essential to treat the mother and her baby or child together guiding the mothers to learn how to build and sustain a relationship. Our society has grown in its awareness of the interconnectedness of physical and mental health. At Great Expectations, we have long embraced that understanding by creating a continuum of care leading to wellness and well-being for our women, men, and children."

As part of CGE's continuum of care, the organization now serves over 1,000 women, men and children annually in its relational programs which today include:

- Adult Women's Residential Mommy & Me Program in Somerset
- Adolescent Residential Treatment Program in Somerset
- Katy's Place Child Development Center, providing daily professional childcare for the children within the CGE community.
- Permanent Supportive Housing, providing apartments along with supportive services
- Roots to Recovery, an adult outpatient program
- START, which provides free in-home and telehealth therapeutic services for women with substance use disorder who are pregnant or postpartum.

CGE's impact and reach is extended through The Institute, CGE's consulting arm which collaborates with organizations and institutions, including schools and health care providers, to create a more attuned culture and provide clinical training. With the inauguration of the Institute, CGE now serves and trains individuals throughout the United States, while CGE's core programs operate in Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Essex, Middlesex and Somerset Counties, with clients coming from throughout New Jersey.

To mark its 25th Anniversary, The Center for Great Expectations will celebrate its, "Hope Lives Here" gala at The Marigold in Somerset on Friday, October 6. The event will bring together leaders, supporters and organizations that have been integral to CGE over the years. Among the honorees are:

- Outstanding Service Award: John & Linda Deitchman, Katy's Place
- Outstanding Volunteer Award: Dale Florio, Esq., Princeton Public Affairs Group.
- Humanitarian Award: Peg Wright, in recognition of her 25 years of leadership of CGE.

The ending to the young girl's story from 1998 is a perfect example of breaking the generational cycle of abuse. In 2021, her "baby" graduated from college. During graduation, she recognized another client from her time at CGE. Her "baby" was also receiving her diploma that day. CGE starts with hope but has moved well-beyond hope to become a national leader in providing transformational treatment for adults, children, and families impacted by adverse childhood events..

To learn more about CGE, consider joining us at our next Information Reception on Wednesday, September 13th at 11:45 am. You will enjoy a light lunch followed by a brief program, video, and tour of our campus in Somerset. For more information contact Laurie Lachs, llachs@cge-nj.org, 732-247-7003 Ext. 336.



Second Chance for Animals Celebrates 25 Years!



July 2023 marked our 25th anniversary of helping the animals of Franklin Township.

Second Chance for Animals was started in 1998 with a handful of dedicated volunteers and a mission to improve the lives and adoption rates of the animals in shelters. We have been supporting the Franklin Township Animal Shelter and the animals of the community ever since.

We have tirelessly advocated and raised money for the animals of Franklin Township through fundraising letters, collection cans, Tricky Trays, Dog Walks, Santa Paws, shaking cans outside grocery stores, selling candy, candles, and handcrafted items, and a host of other marketing and fundraising efforts.

Thanks to the generous support of these fundraising events over these last 25 years, we have been able to spay and neuter over 5,000 animals and provide medical care, food, litter, microchipping, and testing to countless others. SCFA has also provided the shelter with equipment and repairs throughout the years.

We are humbled to have such dedicated volunteers and supporters. Help us celebrate by stopping by our booth at Franklin Day on September 23rd. Find out how you can help us continue and expand our life-saving efforts!

Looking for a new best friend? Visit the Franklin Township Animal Shelter located in the Municipal Complex on DeMott Lane in Somerset: Tuesday – Friday 12 noon - 3PM and Saturdays 12 noon – 6PM.

FREE RABES CLINIC
Franklin Animal Shelter
475 DeMott Ln - Somerset NJ

Cats - September 9th 10am-12pm
Dogs - December 9th 10am-12pm
all dogs must be on leashes/all cats in carriers!

give LIFE
give HOPE
give BLOOD

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023
DECEMBER 8, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
FRANKLIN TWP. MUNICIPAL BUILDING
475 DeMOTT LANE, SOMERSET, NJ

988 LIFELINE CALL, TEXT, CHAT 24/7

CALL 988
TEXT 988
CHAT 988lifeline.org/chat

When you call, text, or chat with the 988 Lifeline, you are connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing 988 Lifeline network. These counselors are trained to provide free and confidential emotional support and crisis counseling to individuals in suicidal crisis, those struggling with substance use disorder, or those experiencing emotional distress, and connect them to resources.

988lifeline.org

The previous 988 Lifeline phone number, 1-800-273-8255, will always remain available to anyone in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.

Get your library card now!

Franklin Township PUBLIC LIBRARY
732-873-8700 franklintwp.org
DeMott Lane | Lewis Street | Franklin Park

Apply online at
www.FranklinTwp.org/register

CENTRAL JERSEY HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER PROVIDES FREE COUNSELING SERVICES & WEBINARS

Housing has become extremely difficult to attain in our area of NJ and unfortunately is usually a long process. Being prepared is one of the best ways to start the process. CJHRC is a HUD certified housing counseling agency providing FREE programs and services to individuals and households to achieve their housing and financial goals. If you are struggling with your current housing situation and live or work in Franklin Township or the surrounding area, contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036.

Two-Day Virtual Homebuyer Webinar

September 11 & September 13, 2023
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

If you want to purchase a home, but don't know how or where to start – CJHRC's FREE webinar is a great way to learn about the process. Participants can receive a certificate of completion which is important because it is required by lenders to get special mortgage products (reduced rate mortgages for 1st Time Homebuyers), as well as a requirement of most down payment/closing cost grant programs. If these dates don't fit your schedule, CJHRC also offers FREE individual counseling or a combination of counseling and web-based program. Contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036 for more information.

Financial Literacy Virtual Webinar

October 18, 2023
6:00 pm to 7:15 pm



According to Ramsey Solutions, "four out of every five US workers live paycheck to paycheck" and "about 40% of Americans wouldn't even be able to cover a \$400 emergency." Are you part of that statistic? Learn about budgeting, tracking expenses, credit scores, debt to income ratio's and so much more by attending this 75-minute financial literacy webinar. Participants who complete this program are able to schedule an appointment to meet with a CJHRC counselor in Somerville NJ and a checklist of what items to bring to the in-person counseling session will be provided. At the counseling session, client(s) will need to execute an authorization form. The counselor will help the client(s) understand the report and identify possible housing hurdles and more!

Virtual Down Payment Webinar

December 12, 2023
6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

With home prices in NJ extremely expensive and rental rates also at an all-time high, many households hoping to buy find it difficult to save for all funds needed for down payment and closing costs; fortunately grants exist for this purpose. Learn about available assistance grants, when to apply, grant requirements, terms and conditions, homebuyer education requirements and more.

To register for any of our virtual webinars, go to our website (www.cjhrc.org) and hover over the Virtual Counseling Programs tab; click on the appropriate topic in the dropdown menu; click on the link which will bring to a page to register. CJHRC also offers FREE individual counseling. It's easy to get started, just contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036 or to register.

To get important housing announcements, resources and information like us on  Facebook (Central Jersey Housing Resource Center) or follow us on  Instagram ([cjhrc_housing](https://www.instagram.com/cjhrc_housing)) CJHRC posts weekly on our social media accounts. Contact a CJHRC Counselor at 908-446-0036 or visit our website at www.cjhrc.org to view resources.

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.
Contact us at:
info@emfas52.org or 732-873-8882

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT COPS & Community

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

September 6th 6:30 pm - 8:30pm at the Community Relations Bureau Building, 935 Hamilton Street, the next Citizen's Academy session begins. Sign up at www.franklintwpnj.org/crb

September 21st 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Senior Center located at 505 Demott Lane, we will be partnering with Community in Crisis for National Opioid Awareness Day. Join us to learn more about how to get help for yourself or a loved one!

September 30th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Franklin Middle School – Hamilton Street Campus for our second annual Bike Rodeo. Bring your children, their bicycles, and helmets to ride through a cone course designed for fun while learning the rules of the road. There will also be free helmets distributed to those in need on a first come, first served basis. Penn Medicine will be on hand to provide safety tips and Starbucks coffee will be available for parents to enjoy!

October 4th is National Coffee with a Cop Day!! Enjoy coffee or a meal and conversation with your local Franklin officers at the following location and times:

- **7:30 am - 9:30 am** Dunkin Donuts - 1067 Easton Avenue, Somerset
- **2:00 pm - 4:00 pm** Starbucks - 120 Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset
- **4:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Nopal Taqueria Moderna - 456 Elizabeth Avenue– Participating diners will receive 10% off their meal.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

The first Wednesday of every month we partner with Franklin Food Bank and Community Food Bank of New Jersey to deliver fresh produce to those facing food insecurity. The food is distributed on a first come, first served basis at the Community Relations Bureau building at 935 Hamilton Street beginning at 11am until all the food is distributed.

Know any high school students interested in learning more about a career in law enforcement? Have them join our Cadet Academy. Sign up at www.franklintwpnj.org/crb The cadets meet twice a month after school from October -June.

Please call the Community Relations Bureau at 732.873.5533 x 3124 with questions about these or any other fun and exciting programs that we offer!! Check us out at www.franklintwpnj.org/crb

Volunteers Needed!

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

FRANKLIN FOOD BANK
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



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!

Police

Bicycle Rodeo

Saturday, September 30th
10AM-12PM

Franklin Middle School
Hamilton Street Campus
415 Francis Street

There will be a bicycle agility course to mimic what children would see on the roadway. Children will also learn safety tips.

Bring your child, their bicycle and have a good time!

FREE bicycle helmet GIVE AWAY at our bicycle rodeo.

****Limited Quantity Of Helmets****
FOR INFO CALL 732-873-5533 EXT 3124

Shade Tree Commission's Treemendous List Part 2

Franklin Township Recommended Evergreen and Coniferous Tree List

Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

Are you planning to plant any trees in your yard this fall? Do you want to know which trees grow well in Franklin Township? This spring, the Shade Tree Commission published a list of over 140 deciduous trees recommended for our area. A list of over 30 evergreen and coniferous trees is now also available. The listed species enhance biodiversity, avoid monocultures, and are not known to be invasive. The lists include the trees' common and botanical names, general information about their expected mature height and width, whether they have any ornamental characteristics, and whether they are native to the area. Also on the website is a previously-published advisory list of trees to NOT plant in the Township. You can easily access all three lists under the resource section of the Shade Tree Commission website at <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/shadetree>.

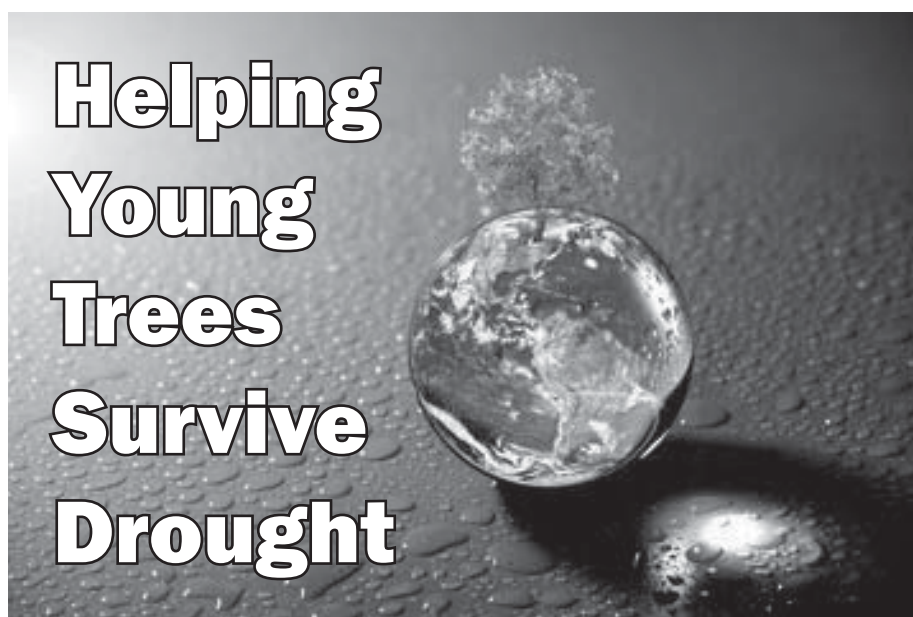
Right tree, right place! To ensure the long-term success of any tree you plant, always confirm your specific site conditions match the selected tree's growing requirements.

For this type of detailed information, you can explore online resources such as the USDA Plants Database. General guidance on planting, mulching, and watering your tree can be found at <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/shadetree>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

After a three-year interruption, the Commission is happy to announce a tree sale in Spring 2024. Watch this space for further information. You may also sign up to receive email alerts about the Commission's activities by navigating to <https://www.franklintwpnj.org/our-township> and tapping the "CONNECT WITH US" button.

Do you have any questions about your trees or what to plant? The Commission will have a table set up in the municipal tent at the Franklin Day event on September 23, 2023. We hope to see you there!



While out and about town this spring and summer, you may have noticed numerous trees that appear to be suffering. Deciduous trees may be only partially leafed out; evergreen trees may show brown leaves and needles; others completely dead. While some of the dieback of deciduous trees is due to the invasive Emerald Ash Borer insect that attacks ash trees, much of the stress that trees are currently experiencing is due to last summer's drought. Young trees already stressed from the drought then faced one of the driest months of May on record. If you planted trees anytime in the past 3-5 years, it is critical that those trees receive adequate water.

Since their roots are still being established, young trees should get approximately 1.5" to 2" of water per week during the growing season. If nature doesn't supply enough rain, you should water your tree.

- To minimize evaporation, water in the early morning or early evening.
- A general rule of thumb is 10 gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter over the course of a week or when the soil below the top 2" in the root zone is dry.
- It is better to water less often and more deeply.

- If any tree shows signs of stress such as wilting leaves, it should be watered deeply as soon as possible.
- Applying a 3" organic layer of mulch will also help your tree. Mulch regulates the soil temperature, slowing water evaporation from the soil. Just be careful not to pile the mulch against the trunk of the tree. Such "mulch volcanoes" can weaken and kill trees.

You can find more watering and mulching guidance on the Shade Tree Commission website at www.franklintwpnj.org/shadetree.

Franklin Township Office of Emergency Management (OEM)



Hurricane flooding on Easton Avenue

The Franklin Township Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was established through a Township Ordinance in compliance with state statutes. It is composed of a coordinator and three deputy coordinators who are appointed by the Mayor. Director Quovella Maeweather of the Franklin Township Police Department serves as the Coordinator and Sergeant Brian Farrar, Sergeant Kenneth Daly, and Detective Ronald Risten serve as Deputy Coordinators.

The main responsibility of the OEM is to organize, prepare, mitigate, and address any emergencies or catastrophes that may occur within the local area. To achieve this, the OEM works closely with the police department, fire departments, first aid squads, local community groups, and other local, county, state, and federal emergency response agencies.

The OEM regularly conducts drills and exercises with Somerset County and New Jersey Emergency Management Offices to ensure that Franklin Township is always prepared to effectively respond to any emergency.

<https://www.franklintwpnj.org/departments/emergency-management>

Regulation of the Planting, Growing or Cultivating of Bamboo

Municipal Code Amendment Notification - CHAPTER 222

Subject to certain exemptions set forth in Franklin Township Ordinance 4417-23, no persons, residents, citizens, property owners and/or tenants of the Township shall plant, cultivate, or cause to grow, any bamboo on any lot and/or parcel of ground within the geographic boundaries of the Township of Franklin, except for:

- A. Where the root system of such bamboo plants is entirely contained within an above ground level planter, barrel, or other above ground vessel of such design, material and location as to entirely prevent the spread of growth of the bamboo plants' root system beyond the container in which it is planted; and
- B. Whether planted or growing in a container, as described herein, all bamboo plants shall be located, trimmed and maintained so that no part of the plant shall be closer than 10 feet from any property line.

§ 222-27 Exemptions. This chapter shall not apply to any landowner or possessor who, prior to the effective date of this chapter, has planted or caused to grow bamboo on any property within the Township limits unless the Zoning Officer, or his or her designee, determines that any portion of such bamboo has been allowed to grow upon, extend roots across, or extend branches, stalks or leaves over any public way or any private property not owned by or in the possession of such land owner, tenant, or any possessor of said land.

In the event Bamboo is located upon any property within the Township of Franklin, the owner and occupant of said property shall jointly and severally be required to confine such species to prevent encroachment, spread, invasion or intrusion of same onto any other private or public property or public right-of-way. In lieu of confining the species, the property owner or occupant may elect to totally remove the bamboo from the property. Failure to properly confine such bamboo shall require removal as set forth below. The cost of said removal shall be at the bamboo property occupant and owner's expense.

Truncated notice. For full text, please visit franklintwpnj.org.

FOR THE WELL OF IT

HELPING TO BUILD A HEALTHIER FRANKLIN



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY HEALTH
ASSESSMENT



Thank you, Franklin! Your hundreds of responses have given the Community Health Assessment Steering Committee the tools it needs to help build a healthier Franklin. So, thank you for the surveys, focus groups, stories, meetings, and more. Most importantly, we thank you for your voice.

For more information about Healthy Franklin, visit franklintwpnj.org/healthyfranklin

Burn Smart, Burn Safe

A Message About Safe Burning Practices from Franklin Township Fire Prevention Department and the United States Environmental Protection Agency

Burn Wise

Program of U.S. EPA

BURN THE RIGHT WOOD, THE RIGHT WAY, IN THE RIGHT WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE

Did you know that by changing the way you burn wood you can save money, reduce air pollution and protect your health?

Here are a few simple tips to make your fire burn hotter, keep your wallet fatter and keep your local air cleaner and healthier.

Season all firewood. All firewood should be split, securely covered or stored, and aged for at least six months. Seasoned wood burns hotter, cuts fuel consumption and reduces the amount of smoke your appliance produces.

Choose the right firewood. Hardwoods are the best. Never burn trash or treated wood which can emit toxic air pollutants.

Start it right. Use only clean newspaper or dry kindling to start a fire. Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch.

Don't let the fire smolder. Many people think they should let a fire smolder overnight. But reducing the air supply does little for heating and increases air pollution.

Clean ashes from your wood-burning appliance. Excess ashes can clog the air intake vents reducing efficiency. Be sure to dispose of ashes in a metal container away from the house or any flammable material to reduce the risk of fire.

Keep your chimney clean. A clean chimney provides good draft for your wood-burning appliance and reduces the risk of a chimney fire. Have a certified professional inspect your chimney once a year.

Be a good neighbor. Follow best practices for burning wood. Always remember to comply with state and local codes and check your local air quality forecast.

Follow instructions. Operate your wood-burning appliance according to the manufacturer's instructions and follow all maintenance procedures.

Upgrade to cleaner equipment. EPA-certified wood stoves and fireplace inserts burn cleaner and burn wood more efficiently emitting less particle pollution than older models.

Size matters. Choose the right-sized appliance for your needs. If your wood-burning appliance is too big for your room or house, the fuel will smolder and create more air pollution.

Outdoor Fires & Open Burning



Outdoor fires in custom built fireplaces/fire pits or commercially manufactured devices such as outdoor fireplaces, fire bowls and chimineas are very popular in backyards today. Although their use is allowed under the NJ State Fire Code, there are restrictions that residents must comply with. Adhering to these requirements and the manufacturer's safety tips will assure a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience.

- An approved outdoor fire is classified as a fire taking place on a residential property for the sole purpose of providing warmth or recreation and is contained within an approved device.
- The fire cannot exceed three (3) feet in diameter and two (2) feet in height.
- The fuel for outdoor fires is restricted to seasoned fire wood, natural gas or propane.
- The burning of leaves, trash, rubbish, yard waste or construction materials is considered Open Burning and is prohibited by the NJ State Fire Code.
- Outdoor fires should be at least 15-feet from a structure.
- Outdoor fires should not be used during high wind conditions.
- Fireplaces should be located on a non-combustible surface such as a brick or concrete patio.
- The fire must be attended at all times. The fire should be extinguished prior to leaving the area.
- Never use a flammable or combustible liquid to start or rekindle a fire.
- Prior to removing ashes, allow them to cool for at least twenty four (24) hours; then place the ashes in a metal waste can with a tight fitting metal lid and keep it away from the house or any structure.

If you have questions, concerns, or are aware of a violation, please contact Franklin Township Department of Fire Prevention Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM, at 732.873.2500, ext. 6303 or email - firemarshal@franklinnj.gov. Outside of business hours, please contact Franklin Township Police at 732.873.2300.



 For more information on how to burn wise, go to www.epa.gov/burnwise

EPA-456/F-09-004



2023 FALL 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**



SCAN WITH
YOUR DEVICE
TO REGISTER
ONLINE!

Editor, Mayra L. Jimenez



Community/Senior Center



Franklin Youth Center

A Message from the Director, Beau Byrtus

Volume 2, Issue 4

Dear Residents of Franklin,

The dog days of summer are dwindling down and the Recreation staff is hard at work on programming for the fall. I encourage you to check out the wide assortment of activities being offered. From rugby to crafts, ceramics to basketball there is sure to be something for everyone.

The Youth Center, at 429 Lewis Street, continues to be a hub for our members ages 12 to 18 years old. There you can join the media club and learn film making, editing, podcasts or try your hand at basketball and volleyball. The Police

Department's Community Relations Bureau continues to help our young members in the Franklin Fit program.

In addition to all these wonderful program offerings we continue to develop and upgrade our parks facilities. The skate park in Middlebush Park is now fully up and operational. In addition to the skate park you can find a nature trail complete with zip line and climbing structures.

Yours in recreation,

Beau Byrtus, Director, Franklin Township Parks and Recreation



Director of Parks & Recreation,
Beau Byrtus

YOUTH Programs

Tackle Rugby Program

Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 29 – October 26

6:30– 8:00pm

\$135

Ages 10 - 18

Middlebush Park - Patriot Turf Field

In addition to the registration fee, all players must also register with USA Rugby. Rugby 7s tournaments will be on Sundays at different NJ locations.

Free Rugby Clinics

Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 29 & 31

6:30-8:00pm

FREE

Ages 10 - 18

Middlebush Park—Patriot Turf Field

Separate registration for each date is required. Introduction to Tackle Rugby where participants will learn rules and basic skills.

Tennis @ Inman Park

Saturdays, September 16 – October 14

Rally Racquets (Ages 5 & 6)

10:00am-10:55am

\$72

Super Servers (Ages 7-9)

11:00am-11:55am

\$72

Amazing Aces (Ages 10-12)

12:00pm-12:55pm

\$72

Teen Titans (Ages 13-17)

8:30am-9:55am

\$105

Get on the courts and get into the game! With our tennis program you'll get exercise, meet new people and discover your "love" of tennis. You'll quickly pick up the basics (rules, stroke and serving techniques, and court strategies) then move on to racquet and rally skills. Once you pick up a racquet you may never want to put it down! Participants must provide their own racquet. Sneakers required.

Chess Wizards

Thursdays, October 5 – November 30 (No class on November 23)

6:00-7:00pm

\$175

Grades: 1 – 5, Ages: 5-10

Community / Senior Center

Chess Wizards is a premier chess education company providing fun, informative and challenging chess lessons. Students will be divided into groups according to their chess experience. At the end of the session, students will participate in a mini-chess tournament.

World of Science - LEGO Brick Build/Motorized Models

Oct 3 - Nov 14 (No class on October 31st)

6:30 -7:30

\$110

Ages: 5 – 10 years old

Community/Senior Center

Calling all future scientists! Come learn, build, and experiment with us! Our budding astronomers, meteorologists, zoologists, and inventors will learn about space, weather, animals, and more! We'll build all sorts of awesome scientific models and gadgets that are sure to spark both imagination and intellect. If you just can't get enough of hands-on science fun, then you won't want to miss out on our World of Science unit!

*Youth Basketball Clinics

Saturdays, November 11 – December 9, 2023 (no program on November 25th)

\$45.00

2nd & 3rd graders – 10:00am – 12:00pm, ages 7 & 8

Hamilton Street Campus of Franklin Middle School

4th & 5th graders – 1:00-3:00pm, ages 9 & 10

A four-week clinic of skills and drills. Participants must meet both age and grade requirements.

*Children who wear corrective lenses must have safety glasses to participate (this is a NJ State Law!).



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



THERAPEUTIC Programs

What You Need To Know: Financial and Legal Needs and Concerns of Special Needs Families Presentation

Presented by Ezekiel "Zeke" Zimmerman M. ED, MBA, CLTC from The Time To Plan Is Now

Friday, October 6th

Community/Senior Center

7:00p-8:30p

Ages 18+

Free

Topics to be covered: What are the concerns, questions, and answers needed for your loved one's care? What are the implications if proper planning is not done? How do care concerns and planning issues change over a lifetime and why is age 18 such an important transition period? What does a life plan to address all of these concerns look like? What are the important legal and financial steps that need to be taken? How do we care for the caregivers? There will be time for Q & A after.

Switch It Up Video Gaming Club, Sunday, September 17th

Community/Senior Center

2:00pm-5:00pm

Ages 18-35

\$10.00

This club meets 1 Sunday a month to play a variety of multiplayer Nintendo Switch games, including Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros., Mario Party, Hasbro Game Night, Kahoot, and Jack box. Participants can bring their Nintendo Switch, any games they may want to play with the group, and a wireless controller. This is optional. It is not necessary to bring any items to attend the gaming program.

Therapeutic Zumba

Mondays, September 11-October 16

Community/Senior Center

7:15pm-7:45pm Ages 6-12

7:50pm-8:20pm Ages 13-35

\$45.00

Zumba is a fitness program that involves cardio and Latin-inspired dance. This adapted inclusive class is great for siblings and friends to do together.

Drop-In, Fridays, September 8,15,22

Community/Senior Center

7:00pm-8:00pm

Ages-13-34

\$10.00/session

Drop-In meets on Fridays with a different theme each week. Some themes include karaoke, game night, parties, scavenger hunts, and crafts.

Social Bowling League

Saturdays, September 29th-November 4th

Bowlero 1 Carolier Lane, North Brunswick

10:00am-11:15 Ages 13-34

\$70

This non-competitive social bowling league meets every Saturday morning for 2 games of bowling and fun.

Special Olympics Young Athletes

Date: Saturdays , September 16- October 28 (No Class on 9/23)

10:00am-11:00am Ages:2-7

Free

The Young Athletes Program is designed for children ages 2 through 7 with and without intellectual disabilities and to introduce them to Special Olympics New Jersey. The program focuses on inclusive sports play that teaches skills like balance, jumping and kicking. Athletes will have the ability to learn and improve their social skills like taking turns and playing with teammates, build their self-confidence, and the opportunity to play as a family and meet new friends.

For Therapeutic program questions contact:
Maria Dueñas, Therapeutic Program Coordinator
maria.duenas@franklinnj.gov 732-873-2500 x6357



YOUTH CENTER Programs

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

Visit our registration website @ 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.

FYI Basketball, Fridays, starting September 15

Franklin Youth Center Gymnasium

Instructional-level basketball skills and drills.

6:00-8:00 PM

\$10-Members Only

Brilliant With Brushes, Tuesday and Thursdays, 9/12 - 11/16

Brilliant with Brushes will explore drawing and painting in black & white and color, as well as digital design.

3:00-5:00 PM

\$50-Members Only

Power Up: Youth Strength and Agility, Tuesday and Thursday, 9/26 - 11/16

Fitness Center

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

5:00-7:00 PM

FREE-Members Only

Youth Center Media Club, Tuesday and Thursday, 9/12 - 11/16

Join our Youth Center Media team and cover events and programs at the Youth Center. Learn to edit what you've shot and participate in various video projects.

5:00-7:00 PM

\$75 - Members Only

College Readiness, Mondays, 9/11 - 10/16

Get a Head-Start on the college application, admission, and acceptance procedures! Get help with FAFSA, EOF, CLASSES, APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATION ESSAYS!!

4:00-5:00 PM

FREE-Members Only

Franklin Flag Football, Monday and Wednesday, 9/11 - 10/18

Middlebush Park

A 6-week Flag Football program that includes 3 weeks of foundational football instruction, followed by 3 weeks of competitive games.

3:00-5:30 PM

FREE-Members Only

SportsPlus + , Thursdays, 10/12 - 11/16

SportsPlus+ gives tips and tricks to the trade for Youth athletes, while touching on various other life skills that can be taught via sports. Not everyone will go pro, but that doesn't mean sports cannot help you reach your life goals.

6:00-7:00 PM

FREE-Members Only

Boys Council, Wednesdays, 9/13-11/15

A 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.

3:00-4:00 PM

FREE-Members Only

Girls Circle, Wednesdays, 9/13 - 11/15

A Mentoring Program series that will help unlock the minds of girls who are interested in learning the Secrets of Financial Success, Health, Wellness and Life Itself.

3:00-4:00 PM

FREE-Members Only

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



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



ADULT Programs

Tennis @ Inman Park

Saturdays, September 16 – October 14

8:30am-10:00am

Adult Tennis (Ages 18+)

\$105 residents

This 90 minute developmental program is designed to provide fundamental instruction and low level competitive tennis for adults. Participants must provide their own racquet. Sneakers are required.

Zumba

Tuesdays & Thursdays, September 12 – November 16th (No class October 25 Through November 8)

7:30-8:30pm

Ages 16+

\$72 residents

Community/Senior Center

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

Adult Volleyball

Tuesdays, October 10 – April 30 (program is not held on school holidays)

7:00-8:30pm

Ages 18+

\$70 residents

Sampson G. Smith School, 1649 Amwell Road, Somerset

Pick-up games for adults 18 and older.

Adult Pickleball

Thursdays, October 12 – May 2 (program is not held on school holidays)

7:00–8:30pm

Ages 18+

\$70 residents

Sampson G. Smith School, 1649 Amwell Road, Somerset

PLEASE NOTE: This is not an instructional session. Participants should know the rules and basic court strategies in order to participate in pick-up games.

Intermediate Pickleball

Mondays October 9 – April 29 (program is not held on school holidays)

7:00 – 8:30pm

Ages 18+

\$70 residents

Sampson G. Smith Campus of Franklin Middle School

Intermediate players only! Players must be able to place 80% of their serves in the correct box and be able to return 80% of serves received on both the forehand and backhand sides. Is comfortable with medium to fast paced rallies and are capable of sustaining a dink rally. Understands the rules and can keep score. Has good mobility and eye-hand coordination.

Ceramics

Wednesdays, September 13 – December 13 (no classes on November 8, 15, 22)

Hamilton St. Campus of FMS

6:00-8:00pm

Ages 18+

Registration Fee: \$175. Includes your registration fee, glazes and 25 pounds of clay.

Additional Clay/Materials Fee: \$65.00 (includes an additional 25 pounds of clay & associated glazes).

This class will introduce students to building with clay. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements: line, shape texture and color. Focus will be on hand building techniques -pinch, coil and slabs.

INTRO TO PICKLEBALL—THURSDAY AFTERNOONS AT CASTLETON PARK- CHECK RECDESK FOR AVAILABILITY!



FOREVER 55 ACTIVE ADULT Programs

Open to residents ages 55+ ♦ Online registration required

Visit our registration website @ franklintwp.recdesk.com for start dates and more information. All indoor programs take place at the Community/Senior Center, 505 DeMott Lane, Somerset.

INDOOR PROGRAMS:

BASICS OF DRAWING	WEDNESDAYS	11:00AM-12:00PM	FEE REQUIRED
Knitting & Crocheting Club	Mondays	12:00PM	FREE
Functional Fitness	Mondays	2:15-3:15PM	Fee Required
Functional Fitness	Thursdays	11:00AM-12:00PM	Fee Required
Pilates	Mondays	3:20-4:20PM	Fee Required
Pilates	Thursdays	12:15-1:15PM	Fee Required
Theater Club	Tuesdays	3:00PM-5:00PM	FREE
Line Dancing	Wednesdays	9:30AM-10:15	Fee Required
Healthy Bones	Thursdays	10:00-11:00AM	FREE
Gentle Mat Yoga	Fridays	9:00-10:00AM	Fee Required
Chair Yoga	Fridays	10:15-11:15AM	Fee Required

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS:

Walking Club (Colonial Park)	Thursdays	9:30AM-10:30AM	FREE
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Swingin' Singin' Seniors: This chorus 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

Monthly Educational Workshops and events start in the Fall. Check the monthly calendar for dates and topics.

Parks & Recreation is always looking to add more enrichment programs geared towards active adults. Specifically looking to add art, language, creative writing, and Zumba Gold instructors to add to our current offerings.

If you would like to apply for a Part Time Seasonal instructor position, contact 732-873-1991 Option 4 for more information.

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



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



SPECIAL EVENT Programs

Franklin Township Parks & Recreation strives to present thoughtful and engaging events for all ages to help build and foster a sense of pride in our wonderfully diverse community. Please "Save the Date" for our Fall events below.

You will also find more information on our township Facebook pages: Franklin Township Somerset NJ: <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinTwpSomersetCty> and Franklin Township Recreation Somerset NJ: <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinTwpRecreation/>

9/11 PATRIOT DAY COMMEMORATION

Tuesday, September 12th 6:00pm

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
475 DE MOTT LANE, SOMERSET

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

2023 **FRANKLIN DAY**
COLONIAL PARK KNOB HILL GROVE

Saturday September 23 12:00-5:00pm

FREE

www.FranklinTwpNJ.org/FranklinDay, Franklin.Day@franklinnj.gov
(732) 873-2500 x6428

Sign up for event alerts: TEXT FranklinDay to 888777

COMMUNITY FOOD MUSIC FAMILY FUN

HALLOWEEN ON HAMILTON

TRUNK OR TREAT! MUSIC! PUMPKIN DECORATING!
KIDS GAMES! COSTUME CONTEST! & MORE!

OCTOBER 28 12:00-3:00pm

FREE

RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 29

John's Plaza, Hamilton Street Somerset, NJ

VISIT: FRANKLINTWPNJ.ORG

VETERANS DAY
HONORING OUR MILITARY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 10:30-11:30AM

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 475 DE MOTT LANE, SOMERSET

TO PARTICIPATE:
BOB LACORTE 732-991-1710, BOBLACORTE52@GMAIL.COM

Holiday Tree Lighting

Friday, December 8 6:00-8:00pm

Municipal Complex

Help us kick off the holiday season and join us for an evening of festive fun!

FRANKLINTWPNJ.ORG

WE'RE HIRING!

Program Specialists	Summer Camp staff	Fitness Instructors
Building Supervisors	Facility Support	Athletic Coaches

Apply @ www.franklintwpnj.org **JOIN OUR TEAM**

For Special Event program questions contact:
Mayra L. Jimenez, Recreation Program Coordinator
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, Program Assistant
Patricia Daniel, Recreation Staff
Jordyn Williams, Recreation Staff

Windy White, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
Mawiyah Holliman, Youth Center Program Manager
Joel Painsion, Youth Center Program Coordinator
Joe Jankowski, Youth Center Program Assistant
George Worsley, Youth Center Program Assistant
Larissa Ford, Clerical Assistant
Malikah Murray, Clerical Assistant
Terence Brown, Safety Liaison
Lorraine Thompson, Safety Liaison
Bernard Fletcher, Safety Liaison



RECREATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In case of inclement weather, announcements regarding cancellations will be available by calling (732) 873-1991 & press Option 1. If schools close due to inclement weather, all programs held at schools are automatically cancelled.

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING: We welcome individuals with or without disabilities to participate in all recreation programs and activities. In accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact us to discuss any modifications needed for you or your child's successful participation in programs.

MAKE-UPS: Make-ups are only offered for programs cancelled by the Recreation Dept. due to weather or other circumstances. In some instances, credits will be issued in lieu of makeup classes. Make-ups are not given for absences.

FEES: ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED UPON REGISTRATION. Program fees are not prorated for late registrations.

RESIDENCY: All fees listed are for Township residents. The Recreation Dept. reserves the right to limit registrations to Township residents for any programs. Non-residents may enroll in a program 7 days prior to program start date and at double the listed fee.

REFUNDS/CREDITS: No refunds/credits will be given after a program begins. Refunds will only be approved if: 1. Recreation Dept. cancels an activity. 2. A written request is received at least 7 days prior to the start of the program. 3. A medical issue arises which will require submitting a doctor's note for consideration.

FEE REDUCTIONS: Income guidelines are established for fee reductions for certain Recreation programs. Call the Recreation Office for information.

EMAIL: Email is used for program confirmations and communications. Please note that Franklin Recreation does not share e-mail addresses.

TOWNSHIP SPORTS CLUBS & LEAGUES

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

- FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SOCCER CLUB/TOP SOCCER (SPECIAL NEEDS)
www.franklinsoccer.com
- FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BASEBALL LEAGUE 732-649-8068
www.ftblbaseball.com / ftblsomerset@gmail.com
- FT/So. BOUND BROOK LITTLE LEAGUE 732-469-7761
www.leaguelineup.com / ftsblittleleague.com
- POP WARNER FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING
www.ftpw.org / ftpwnj@gmail.com
- ADULT SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL 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.)
Across the street from 12 Berry St.)

732-249-7800 ext. 6290

Franklin Township Website:

<https://www.franklintwpnj.org>

CALENDAR

Saturday Schedule

8:00am – 2:45pm

September 9, 2023

October 14, 2023

November 11, 2023

December 9, 2023

Monday Schedule (Tuesday in case of holiday)

7:30am – 11:30am

September 5, 2023

September 18, 2023

October 9, 2023

October 23, 2023

November 6, 2023

November 27, 2023

December 4, 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.
Somerset, NJ 08873

Monday thru Friday: 7:00am - 2:45pm

Township Clerk's Office

475 DeMott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873

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 – Can not be longer than 8 feet; closed in trailers are not allowed.

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.,

(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
40 Churchill Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873

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**

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

September 18, 2023

October 23, 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

www.co.somerset.nj.us

Franklin Township & South Bound Brook

September 7, 21

October 5, 19

November 2, 16, 30

December 14, 28

Franklin Park – Griggstown

September 8, 22

October 6, 20

November 3, 17

December 1, 15, 29

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

September 11, 25

October 9, 23

November 6, 20

December 4, 18

Canal Walk, Somerset Run & Summerfields

September 1, 15, 29

October 13, 27

November 10, 24

December 8, 22

Household Hazardous Waste Days

9:00am to 2:00pm

September 23, 2023

34 Kenbury Rd. Branchburg 08876

October 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

September 9, 2023

October 7, 2023

November 4, 2023

December 2, 2023

(Proof of Somerset County Residency required)

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

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

MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

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

Needles and syringes can be dropped off at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset located at 110 Rehill Ave. in Somerville, NJ Monday 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

September 16, 2023

Somerset County Public Works Garage

South County Facility

410 Roycefield Road

Hillsborough, NJ 08844

October 14, 2023

Somerset County Public Works Garage

North County Facility

411 Chimney Rock Road

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

November 18, 2023

Somerset County Public Works Garage

North County Facility

411 Chimney Rock Road

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

FALL LEAF BAG PICK UP INFORMATION

TO BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE IN
NOVEMBER

www.franklintwpnj.org

YOU MAY ALSO BRING LEAF BAGS TO THE
CONVENIENCE CENTER ON THE DAYS
WE'RE OPEN.

**ALL LEAF BAGS MUST BE
BIODEGRADABLE**

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF EDUCATION
2301 Route 27
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 873-2400

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

As we prepare to welcome back our students, I want to take this opportunity to reintroduce our building leadership to our larger community and ask them to share a few thoughts on their schools and the coming 2023-2024 school year. In this issue we also shine the spotlight on some of our central office departments and the work they are doing to support our schools. I encourage you to visit Curriculum Corner for some highlights of the work done in that essential area and in another article learn about the new School Threat Assessment Teams being organized by Mr. Orvyl Wilson, the Director of School Management.

The creation of the new threat assessment teams was mandated by a recent law. The team's purpose is to provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in identifying students acting in concerning ways, assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities, and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm.

The health and safety of our staff and students remain a top priority of the Board of Education and that concern is consistently reflected in the district's work. We will continue our partnership with Zufall Health and plan to expand the services provided through their school based health center. Currently these medical services, including the more recently added dental services, are provided to all district students at the mobile clinic located on the Hamilton Street Campus of Franklin Middle School. We are, however, working with the Township Council toward the ultimate goal of building a dedicated facility on that campus affording Zufall the ability to provide even more services to a broader population. Preparations are also moving along for our staff health center on Veronica Avenue, which is on schedule to open this Fall.

Thanks to all of our community members who took the time to participate in our strategic plan survey. The Board of Education will be reviewing a draft of that plan early in the school year and it will be available on our website shortly thereafter. Please continue to check our website for the most recent news about our district and if you have any questions about a particular area, please feel free to contact me or a member of our leadership team.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nancy LaCorte, President
Ardaman Singh, Vice President
Nishita Desai
William Grippo
Dr. Dennis Hopkins, Jr.
Walter Jackson
Laurie Merris
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Road to Success Alternative Program

Vice Principal Nikkii Tatum

"The Road to Success Alternative Program is special because of its caring and dedicated staff who work with our students to provide them with the academic and social emotional support that they need," says RTS Program VP Nikkii Tatum.

For many students RTS serves as a "second chance" to improve themselves in a number of areas, including grades and attendance, with more one to one support. The program provides students with smaller class sizes, exposure to community agencies and career & college readiness opportunities.

This coming year, the students in the program will begin their day at the Franklin Youth Center, strengthening the connection to the Township. Ms. Tatum expands that thought, "My greatest hope for the upcoming school year is that our students are able to see themselves as valuable assets to the Franklin Township Community."

Road to Success Alternative Program
415 Francis Street, Somerset, NJ
(732) 249-6410 x 325
Grades 6-12



From Principal Dr. Nicholas Solomon

Franklin High School

What makes Franklin High School so special?

I believe what sets FHS apart is the exceptional programming, diverse course offerings, and wide range of clubs available. We are dedicated to catering to the unique needs of our students and community, ensuring that there's something for everyone to connect with. Our commitment to diversity is not only evident but also actively embraced through our efforts.

Principal Solomon notes that last year, despite the challenging circumstances and national staff shortages affecting the education sector, FHS demonstrated remarkable resilience. He credits the unwavering dedication of his staff and the collaborative spirit of FHS students for their success. "Witnessing their unwavering commitment and problem-solving abilities was truly awe-inspiring," he says.

Franklin High School
500 Elizabeth Ave., Somerset, NJ
(732) 302-4200
Grades 9-12



Sampson G. Smith Campus of Franklin Middle School

Principal Rebekah Solomon

The SGS Campus of Franklin Middle School will have a new principal in the 23-24 school year. Ms. Rebekah Solomon, will take over for Ms. Evelyn Rutledge who retired at the end of the prior school year.

Ms. Solomon had previously served as the principal of Franklin Park School. Principal Solomon says she has heard, "nothing but positive things about the dedication of everyone at SGS, from students, staff, and community who support the school and students in all ways." She is looking forward to her role as instructional leader of the campus and to sharing the school's theme for this year.

"The school-wide theme of "ILLUMINATE," is centered around fostering positivity, optimism, and personal growth within the school community. This theme encourages everyone to shine a light on various aspects, including students, topics, perspectives, and the world at large. By embracing this theme, we aim to create a vibrant and enlightening atmosphere throughout the year," says Principal Solomon.

Sampson G. Smith Campus of Franklin Middle School
1649 Amwell Road, Somerset, NJ
732-873-2800
Grades 6-8



From Principal Torrie Rumph-Hurd

The Hamilton Street Campus
of Franklin Middle School

What makes the Hamilton Street Campus of Franklin Middle School so special?

It would have to be our school village. Hamilton Street campus is a community school. From the afterschool activities to the evening events to our community partners, we welcome and cherish the opportunities we get to spend with our community at large. Our students, staff, parents and community partners give of their time and talents day in and day out. Because of the relationships we have built, it allows us to provide access and opportunities to our community.

Principal Hurd is excited about the 23-24 school year and building upon the grace and compassion her school community has shown over the past few years. She is looking forward to another year of excellence.

**The Hamilton Street Campus
of Franklin Middle School**
415 Francis St., Somerset, NJ
(732) 249-6410
Grades 6-8

From the Board of Education President

What is the Best Thing About Franklin? Whenever I pose that question to students and staff, they say “diversity.” While I like that answer, there is more to Franklin than diversity. I wanted to know what else is exceptional about Franklin Township Public Schools, so I asked what is the second best thing to them. That was where I got a little more diversity; opportunities, choices, people, and how you belong in the Warrior family.

As a proud Warrior for Life, I hope we all feel welcomed into the diverse Warrior Family. We have something for everyone to fit in.

What opportunities does Franklin offer? Franklin High School students may choose college and earn some extra credits with our dual enrollment with our local colleges or Advanced Placement classes. Our award-winning Junior ROTC is not just for students that want to join the military; it is an outstanding leadership program. Students can also choose Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs. CTE programs provide workplace experiences related to a chosen career. Our students can split their time between Franklin High School and Somerset County VoTech and choose from agricultural science, culinary arts, building trades, and many other programs. FTSPS students also have the opportunity to perform, compete, and engage outside of Franklin Township, Somerset County, and even New Jersey.

Equally as diverse as our course offerings are the extra-curricular activities. The high school offers 44 different clubs! Students can choose from culture, science, world language, peer support, the arts, leadership, government, the environment, activism, and many more. Their clubs can also enrich courses they might be taking, like MedTech, Aviation, or a world language. Model UN and the Latin Club are just a few of the clubs that compete on a national level. These opportunities for extra-curricular don't just begin at a high school level; our middle school students have clubs to choose from. Some students might choose the Stock Market Club, world languages, culture, the arts, leadership, and peer support clubs. Our elementary students have Morning Clubs and Student College; some of their choices include science, arts, reading, and leadership clubs.

We are well known for our exemplary arts programs. In elementary school, students are exposed to fine arts, dance, and music and can choose the instrument they want to learn. As they get older, the opportunities only increase. You might see some of these students on Broadway, in a film, or at Carnegie Hall.

Students also have a diverse opportunity for sports. A small sampling of the choices available to our middle and high school students includes track and field, basketball, football, soccer, tennis, and swimming. This year, we are offering volleyball at FHS. We have Unified Sports, which include track and field, bowling, eSports, and our cheer team went to Nationals in Orlando this year.

FTSPS employs over 1100 hard-working, dedicated, high-qualified professionals. You typically see teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, counselors, nurses, security, and custodians. The people behind the scenes include the central office, buildings and grounds, food services, clerical, and business personnel. All of these people are there for our students. We all have that person we connected with in school; our students are no different. They continue to visit and reach out to that connection long after graduation.

It might be a club, a lunch or study group, a team or cast members, or that memorable staff member who provides that feeling of belonging. It might just be the vibe of the school. However you choose to define it, it is the Warrior family. We are there for you long after you have graduated.

While diversity might be the go-to word to describe Franklin Township Public Schools, it is also choices, opportunities, and belonging.

What is the best thing about Franklin to you? Please share your thoughts with me at nlacorte@franklinboe.org

Nancy LaCorte, Franklin Township BOE President, Master Board Member

Board of Education Meetings are generally held once a month at 7:30 pm in the Community Center of the Board of Education Administrative Campus,
2301 Route 27, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Questions or comments about the Board of Education may be addressed to the current Board President at nlacorte@franklinboe.org



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.



EAS Admin Team – Principal Romero and VP Molina

Elizabeth Avenue School Principal Gregory Romero

“The minute you walk through the doors of Elizabeth Avenue School you feel at home,” says Principal Romero of EAS. He credits his staff for going the “extra mile” to ensure that each student feels cared for, understood and supported in their academic and personal journey.

Principal Romero says, Elizabeth Avenue School focuses on creating a family atmosphere and celebrating inclusivity and diversity. In the new school year, he wants to continue to create an environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, and where teachers feel empowered and supported in their roles.

The theme at EAS this year is, “At EAS, learning is an adventure”. Joining the EAS team on that adventure is Edgar Vasquez Molina, who was recently appointed to a Vice Principal position there. Mr. Molina had been a bilingual teacher in the district prior to this position and he is now looking forward to joining the EAS family.

Elizabeth Avenue School
363 Elizabeth Ave., Somerset, NJ
732-356-0113
Grades Pre-K - 5



FPS Admin Team – VP McGee and Principal Stein (l-r)

Franklin Park School Principal Jennifer Stein

At their June meeting, the Franklin Township Board of Education appointed Jennifer Stein to be the new Principal of Franklin Park School. Ms. Stein had formerly been the Vice Principal at Elizabeth Ave. School.

Principal Stein is looking forward to leading at FPS where she says, “families, students, and staff will collaborate to foster a stimulating and supportive learning environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.” To do this she plans to strengthen family and community engagement by actively involving families and the community in school activities, events, and decision-making processes and providing a fair and effective conflict resolution process to address disagreements in the school.

Franklin Park School is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and their mascot, Buzzter the Bee is proud of their new theme, FPS - Abuzz with learning for a quarter of a century.

Franklin Park School
30 Eden St. Franklin Park, NJ
732-297-5666
Grades Pre-K - 5



Claremont Elementary School Principal Miguel Rivera

When asked what makes CES so special, Principal Miguel Rivera, who is beginning his second year as leader of that school says, “we have a true cross representation of all students from across the district here at Claremont.” CES houses many of the district's special education programs and its student

population also comes from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Beginning in this year, CES will also warmly welcome two classes in the district's bilingual program.

At their June meeting, the Board of Education appointed Ms. Angela Pape to be a Vice Principal at CES. Mr. Rivera and Ms. Pape hope to make Claremont the place students and staff look forward to coming every day. Working with their staff and student families they look to make Claremont the shining star it was intended to be.

Claremont Elementary School
175 Claremont Rd, Somerset, NJ
732-210-3500
Grades Pre-K - 5

Central Office Leadership – Areas of Responsibility

For your information, below is a brief summary of the areas of responsibility assigned to central office administration and how to reach out to them if you have a question or concern.



The Office of the Superintendent, Dr. John A. Ravally. The Superintendent serves as Chief Executive, Instructional Leader and Administrative Officer of the district. He is the only employee who reports directly to the Board of Education. All other employees of the district ultimately report to him. He is charged with implementing policies established by the Board of Education and by discharging the duties imposed on his office by law. These duties include: directing the formation of district goals, plans, policies and budgets; recommending their approval by the Board and directing their implementation; recommending all staff appointments and other personnel actions for approval by the Board; directing district operations and programs; supervising and evaluating building administrators and central office staff and overseeing the administration and supervision of school-level operations, staff and programs. Dr. Ravally may be reached at 732-873-2400 x 312 or jravally@franklinboe.org 2022-2023 Franklin Township Public Schools (FTPS) - District Educators of the Year

<p>Dr. Daniel C. Loughran, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction (C&I), is an instructional leader who, with district content area supervisors, is responsible for Curriculum and Program development. This includes research, selection and BOE approval of instructional materials. The C&I department analyzes and addresses student data to ensure student progress is met for all students and shares this information with the community. His department also manages grant applications and implements professional development for teaching staff. Contact Dr. Loughran at (732) 873-2400 x 297 or dloughran@franklinboe.org</p>	<p>Mr. Brian Bonanno, Assistant Superintendent for Business / Board Secretary, working with various administrators, oversees the business functions of the school district, including the following departments: the business office; buildings and grounds; student transportation; food services; information technology and human resources. As Board Secretary, Mr. Bonanno is also responsible for the schedule and advertisement of Board of Education meetings; the creation and keeping of Board meeting minutes; and addressing Open Public Records Act requests for Board of Education or district records. Contact Mr. Bonanno at (732) 873-2400 x 308 or bbonanno@franklinboe.org</p>
<p>Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management and Student Advocacy, and his team, provide support to District students and their families by creating the Student Code of Conduct; implementing the Positive Behavior in Schools framework; managing reports of HIB and hazing; analyzing, reporting and responding to student safety data; providing crisis support through the Student Assistance Coordinators; ensuring a secure learning environment and coordinating safety programs. Contact Mr. Wilson at (732) 873-2400 x 408 or owilson@franklinboe.org</p>	<p>Mr. Luis Valencia, Business Administrator / Assistant Board Secretary, assists the Assistant Superintendent with the business functions of the district. Mr. Valencia, along with his staff, is responsible for the following areas: preparation, presentation and maintenance of the school district budget; accounts payable / purchasing; employee payroll and travel reimbursement; and ensuring the district complies with processes and procedures of the state's public bidding laws. Contact Mr. Valencia at (732) 873-2400 x 308 or lvalencia@franklinboe.org</p>
<p>Dr. Brenda Sofield, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, is responsible for various areas which pertain to student health and special services. She supervises the nursing staff and acts as a liaison with the district medical inspector. She also serves as the liaison and coordinator of homeless services. She, along with her staff, respond to the needs of students with disabilities from evaluation to placement in an appropriate program to delivery of related services and therapies. Dr. Sofield also coordinates the pre-school program. She can be reached at (732) 873-2400 x 203 or at bsofield@franklinboe.org</p>	<p>Ms. Jacqueline Schneider, Manager of Human Resources and the human resources team, are responsible for staff recruitment efforts; managing the onboarding process; preparing the personnel reports for presentation to the Board at their monthly meetings; coordinating substitute coverage; ensuring the staff evaluation process; managing all levels of employee benefits and working with the various staff associations on implementing and negotiating contractual agreements. Contact Ms. Schneider at (732) 873-2400 x 259 or jschneider@franklinboe.org</p>
<p>Ms. Mary L. Clark, Sr. Manager of Policies, Regulations and Communications, and her team ensure that district policies and regulations are current and responsive to the needs of the district community. They coordinate district wide communications through the district website; automated messaging; social media and video news magazines. They facilitate community engagement via contact with the press; support of the district's school connected organizations; distribution of Senior Gold Cards and coordination of facility use by the community. Ms. Clark can be reached at 732-873-2400 x 206 or mclark@franklinboe.org</p>	<p>Other Central Office Inquiries Bidding Opportunities - Mr. Ryan Ellis - (732) 873-2400 x 510 Buildings and Grounds - Mr. Mark McNamara - (732) 873-2371 Community Events Flyer Approval - Ms. Nancy DeVoe (732) 873-2400 x 495 Food Services - Ms. Margaret DeBlasi, RD, SNS (732) 873-2400 x 335 Senior Gold Cards - Ms. Vanessa Miranda - (732) 873-2400 x 515 Student Registration - Ms. Monique Thompson (732) 873-2400 x 402 Transportation - Ms. Donna Stallings (732) 828-6620</p>

District Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Teams


On August 1, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy signed into legislation, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4, requiring the establishment of threat assessment teams in public, charter, and renaissance school projects beginning in the 23-24 school year. The goal of the threat assessment process is to prevent acts of violence before they start. The purpose of a threat assessment team is to provide school teachers, administrators, and other staff with assistance in: identifying students with behaviors of concern; assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities; and delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk.

Through the threat assessment process, we hope to identify students who may be on a "pathway to violence" and provide them with the resources and support they need to adapt to a safe, healthy, and productive lifestyle. Reducing and preventing acts of violence in our schools is part of the formula that ensures that all students have a safe and secure environment in which to learn and grow.

The threat assessment teams' purpose is also to prevent targeted violence in the school and to ensure a safe and secure school environment that enhances the learning experience for all members of the school community.

To be clear, the need to conduct a behavioral threat assessment is based on a set of observable behaviors exhibited by an individual that present safety related concerns. These behaviors include, but are not limited to: student journal entries focusing on violence, destruction, or death; a pattern of physical aggressive behavior or bullying; threats to or the act of bringing a weapon to school; social media posts with threat messaging; exhibiting or threatening self harm; deliberate acts of vandalism or the destruction of property; desire to hurt/kill things; dramatic changes in behavior; drug use; uncontrollable anger or rage or similar alarming or disturbing behavior.

The determination to conduct a behavior threat assessment for a student is not punitive. By identifying students who exhibit concerning behavior such as the behaviors in the examples above, we may provide needed resources and support services to the student/family. A mechanism to report concerning or alarming behaviors will be in place at the beginning of the school year and shared with the student families of Franklin Township Public Schools.




From Conerly Road School
Principal David Heras

What makes Conerly Road School Special?
Conerly Road School is the little school with the big heart.

What were you proudest of about your school/staff/students last school year?
We had amazing student growth this past year, highlighted by our 5th graders winning the Sodhani Cup in the district's Invention Competition!

What is your greatest hope/goal for this coming year?
We want to see our school become part of the fulfillment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the "beloved community," a place where all students are valued and are able to grow to their highest potential.

Conerly Road School
35 Conerly Rd, Somerset, NJ
(732) 249-9362
Grades Pre-K-5



Hillcrest School
Principal Albert Fico

Principal Albert Fico is looking forward to his 24th year of service in Franklin Township Public Schools and credits his teachers, staff and students for making Hillcrest School great.

"Our staff and students support each other and work toward a common goal. Hillcrest School uses every resource it is provided in an effort to make our students grow," says Principal Fico.

Mr. Fico feels his students appreciate that effort as well. At the end of this past school year he received a special thank you note from a student who was moving up to middle school. The student spoke about how welcomed he felt at Hillcrest and how he would miss the school and Mr. Fico. The student promised to return to visit Eddie the Hillcrest Eagle and the Home of the Hillcrest Eagle Warriors.

Hillcrest School
500 Franklin Blvd. Somerset, NJ
(732) 246-0170
Grades Pre-K-5

Curriculum & Instruction Corner

The Office of Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) is responsible for identifying, developing, and implementing learning activities for approximately 7500 students in the Franklin Township Public Schools, including General Education, Special Education, Gifted & Talented, Academic Support Instruction, and Emergent Bilingual learners in grades Pre-K to 12. To help make this possible, the C&I Office is composed of 14 Supervisors and Directors who work with administrators, coaches, and teachers across the district to develop programs of study for its students.

Led by Assistant Superintendent Daniel Loughran, Ed.D, the C&I Office has created outstanding learning opportunities in recent years, and it continues to develop programs, partnerships, and core course curricula that not only help students master the New Jersey Department of Education's mandated learning standards but also to build a foundation for career and college pathways for all learners.

Recent partnerships we created and implemented for our students include the Invention Competition, supported by the Sodhani Foundation. In addition to the many STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) learning opportunities available to students across all grade levels in the Franklin Township Public Schools, 2023 marked our second year of providing additional enrichment for our students in grades 3-5 via the district's Invention Competition, sponsored generously by the Sodhani Foundation, whose Mission and Vision is to help people in need receive education, food, and medical help. The Sodhani Foundation vision is to uplift and give back to society at large, bringing the community together in a holistic manner by establishing a cultural heritage and upholding a shared vision of friendship, peace, and harmony. Sodhani's foundation develops entrepreneurship in youth and instills in them the instinct of giving.

At the elementary level, the fifth-grade team from Franklin Park -- Aditya Jagan Mohan, Vincy Khared, and Charlise Kraus -- placed third, with "Compost Garbage Bin," that truly impressed judges and audience members, not only for its engineering qualities but also for the team's thoughtful, well-rehearsed presentation. This year's runner up at the elementary level, the fourth-grade team from Pine Grove Manor -- Thania Cancino-Castro & Camila Gomez-Rosado -- demonstrated their neat "Jelly-O-Cleaner," which provoked smiles and head nods among audience members. The elementary-level champion for 2023, Conerly Road School's fifth-graders -- Savannah Sewnarine, Amari Montas, Vihaan Patel -- presented "PCB," a filtering process that mimics the chemosynthesis that Tube Worms use for food production. Chemosynthesis is the process by which food is made by bacteria or other living things using chemicals as the energy source, typically in the absence of sunlight. In this case, the team demonstrated how "PCB," Process Chemosynthesis Biomimicry, enabled their invention to mimic that of the Tube Worm's to provide an environmentally-friendly process for cleaning lakes and other bodies of water. As impressive as the scientific research that factored into the presentation was, it was equally clear that the team had rehearsed its presentation carefully, and the audience was delighted to see and hear this smoothly-delivered, compelling "pitch." At the middle school level, teams from the Hamilton Street and Sampson G. Smith campuses contributed their inventions in response to a footwear design challenge. Hamilton Street's eighth-grade team -- Alex Ayona-Ramos, Amani Berry, and Yaroslav Reshotka -- was recognized for its "Magic Shoe" invention, while Sampson G. Smith's eighth-grade team -- Victor Garcia, Himanshu Singh, Raghunandana Thammineni, Athanasios Voudouris, Jayden Whyte -- was honored for its "Renew Run" invention.

While the Invention Competition will continue within the district in future years, it is the district's goal, in partnership with the Sodhani Foundation, to enter student inventions into statewide and national competitions in the near future, including at the New Jersey School Boards Association's annual STEAM Tank competition.

The C & I Office also supports and helps develop enrichment experiences in the schools, including various field trips, assemblies, and even guest author opportunities when possible. For example, this year we were able to host four noted authors for our students, at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. Notably, New York Times Bestselling Author Jason Reynolds visited with all eighth grade students via a webinar in March; National bestselling author Jessica Bruder, who wrote *Nomadland*, the source material for the film that would earn the Best Picture at the 2021 Academy Awards; award-winning bilingual author Alexandra Alessandri; and who penned *smART*, a NY Times Bestseller that was featured on CBS Mornings with Gayle King. In each of these presentations, our teacher leaders worked to ensure that our students did not merely hear a lecture, but instead were invited to interact with the material and the authors directly, which they did and found the experiences moving and potentially life changing.

Please visit our website at the Curriculum and Instruction page for more information on our programs



CRS team takes 1st place at the elementary level.



Amy Herman, FTPS alumnus and author speaks to teachers during a professional development session.



From MacAfee Road School
Principal Karen Adams

What makes MacAfee Road School Special?

At MacAfee Road School, we thrive together! We are a kid-centric community that firmly believes all students can learn, contribute and have a successful school experience by blending academics, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive teaching, and partnering with our parents.

Our "Reach High" motto and expectations are designed to develop, nurture and grow students to their fullest potential. Building and strengthening relationships are intentional practices to support an inclusive community where all learners are encouraged to think critically, elevate their voices, participate, and have fun during their early educational journey.

Our exceptional school community has incredible students, staff, and families. With unity and determination, we are bound to reach new heights together!

MacAfee Road School
53 MacAfee Rd, Somerset, NJ
(732) 249-9097
Grades Pre-K-5



From Pine Grove Manor School
Principal Genesi Miles

What is your greatest hope or goal for this coming year?

This year I am thrilled to navigate a new school year that is jam-packed with thoughtful and strategic goals and action plans that are designed to support student learning and a positive school culture.

What makes your school special?

PGM is a special school because of the care and love that students, staff, and families have for each other. We all come together frequently to learn from each other and participate in school-wide activities that bring us closer together academically, socially, and emotionally.

At PGM, We're Better Together!
Panda Power!

Pine Grove Manor School
130 Highland Ave. Somerset, NJ
(732) 246-2424
Grades Pre-K-5