

# FRANKLIN FACTS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Quakertown Fire Co.</i>	2
<i>Primary Election Day</i>	2
<i>Subcommittees Named</i>	2
<i>Franklin School Project</i>	3
<i>Recreational Events</i>	3
<i>Dare Clothes Bins</i>	3
<i>Senior News</i>	4
<i>Septic Maintenance Ordin.</i>	4
<i>Pittstown Trail</i>	5
<i>Franklin PTA</i>	5
<i>Archives in Franklin</i>	5
<i>SBWA Clean Up Day</i>	5
<i>Franklin History Book</i>	6

Arbor Day 2010 will be on April 30, 2010

Arbor Day encourages people to appreciate, plant and care for trees.

## LINDA JACUKOWICZ: 2010 MAYOR

by Linda Jacukowicz

I want to extend my best wishes to the citizens of Franklin Township. I am both excited and honored to serve as your Mayor in 2010. This year marks the final year in my second term in public office on your Governing Body (the Franklin Township Committee). Having served for many years in public service, I believe this year will prove to be the most gratifying for me.

As we enter 2010, our Township faces a number of opportunities and difficult challenges ahead. Foremost is the fact that we are confronted with tough economic realities, characterized by high gas prices, across the board cost increases and seriously decreased home values (and a reduced tax base). Particularly this year, the Township's Governing Body is obliged to apply difficult budgetary constraints in order to preserve our record of no tax hikes going back six years) and I intend to add to the proud record this year: no higher municipal taxes.

My personal effort is to hard-focus on all municipal services to assure they are provided economically and mindful of fiscal constraint in the difficult year we face. Yes, we are aware these are difficult challenges.

While creating the Township's 2010 budget, I can assure you that I will not overlook what I consider our greatest investment in our Township's future: our citizens and their best interests. I'm intent to improve our efforts to partner with our neighboring communities wherever possible, to reduce our costs without compromising services to the residents. I will take decisive action to keep down expenses and keep the services of the municipal government efficient.

Our citizens place a high priority on preserving the character of our Township and main-

taining our unique identity of villages and vistas. Where many of the surrounding communities have lost it all due to their choice to have sprawling growth, our Township retains its wonderful small-town character and charm. I intend to protect it as we place a high value on our historic farming heritage and believe we can protect these resources while still strategically planning for our future.

We are a small, rural hometown and, as with my predecessor-Mayors, I will be easily accessible to you as Mayor this year. An avenue of communication is available now to you via the Internet, but, really, I am a telephone call away; as is the case of all my fellow members of the Governing Body. I want this year's administration to reflect an Open Government Policy. I want this year's administration to prove to the citizens that your Governing Body is responsive and accountable and that decisions will reflect the community's input and expectations.

As Abraham Lincoln said: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." That is why I'm asking each of you to do whatever you can to take an active part in your community. Whether it's volunteering to serve on one of our boards or commissions or working with the youth and seniors of our community, your service is invaluable.

I urge everyone to attend our public meetings so that your voice will join with others in dialogue with my administration. With your help then, this year will mark record milestones of achievements because you joined in as a team-player with both the Township Committee and myself.

Let's make 2010 a great year together. I hope to see you at one of the Township Committee meetings.

## FRANKLIN'S WEBSITE

Since the summer of 2009, Franklin Township has a new website, designed and maintained by City Connections, LLC. The website address is: [www.franklin-twp.org](http://www.franklin-twp.org). On it you will find agendas, meeting minutes, forms, all the departments and other pertinent and useful information. The website is set up to be User Friendly.

## US CENSUS 2010

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. All U.S. residents must be counted, both citizens and non-citizens. Census day is Thursday, April 1 2010. Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via US mail in March, 2010. Many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. With only 10 questions the 2010 Census is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and only takes 10 minutes to complete. From May through July 2010, Census takers will visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail. For more information about the 2010 Census, visit [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).

## MUNICIPAL HOLIDAYS

The Municipal Building will be closed on the following dates for holidays:

Good Friday - April 2  
 Memorial Day - May 31  
 Independence Day - July 5  
 Labor Day - September 6  
 Columbus Day—October 11  
 Veteran's Day—Nov. 11  
 Thanksgiving Day—Nov. 25  
 Day after Thanksgiv. -Nov 26  
 Christmas Eve -December 24  
 New Year's Eve - Dec. 31

# QUAKERTOWN FIRE CO. REPORTS

The Quakertown Fire Company responded to 245 calls for assistance in Franklin Twp in 2009. Calls received ranged from fire-related incidents, medical calls, animal rescues to basement flooding and fallen trees onto houses. Despite numerous challenges that were faced by QFC in 2009, the organization remains 100% volunteer with over 45 Franklin Twp residents. Volunteers serve as a fire-fighters, emergency medical technician and auxiliary members.

The biggest change in 2010 is Quakertown Fire Company Division of Emergency Medical Services will now provide ambulance service to central Franklin Twp. The fire company's Quick Response Unit will respond to all medical calls in the northern and southern part of the township with ambulances from outside agencies. The end result is that if you are having a medical or fire-related issue in Franklin Twp the volunteers of the Quakertown Fire Company will be sent to assist you.

As you may know, QFC is works with the Quakertown Food Pantry to provide items needed by the pantry.

QFC donated older uniforms to the Franklin Theatre Works for use in their productions.

QFC held an Open House and had participation from community groups, including, FTS PTA, FTS Booster Club, Girl Scouts, Franklin Twp CERT and Rural Awareness.

In 2010, the volunteers of the Quakertown Fire Company will serving the residents of our community, while continuing to help make Franklin a better place to live, whether you require QFC services or not.

If you wish to be part of an organization that is progressive, positive and community-based, please call us 735-5220 or email us at [Feedback@quakertownfire.com](mailto:Feedback@quakertownfire.com)

We have a passion to make a difference in the community!

## OFFICIALS NAMED TO SUBCOMMITTEES

Township Committee members will serve on the following subcommittees this year;

**Administration:** Scott Bauman and Linda Jacukowicz

**Dept. of Public Works & Buildings:** Linda Jacukowicz and Rob Shockley

**Finance:** Scott Bauman & Steven Tarshis

**Health & Recreation:** Scott Bauman

**Insurance:** Steve Tarshis

**Municipal Court:** Steve Tarshis

**Open Space:** Linda Jacukowicz & Robert McGeary

**Police Dept.:** Robert McGeary & Rob Shockley

**Planning Board Class I:** Linda Jacukowicz

**Planning Board Class III:** Scott Bauman

**Planning, Zoning & Construction:** Scott Bauman & Linda Jacukowicz

**School Board Liaison:** Steve Tarshis

**SWAC:** Alan Dilley

**Wastewater Management:** Scott Bauman and Linda Jacukowicz

Residents are encouraged to become active in your local government.

There are volunteer committees and commissions which still have openings. If interested, please call 735-5215.

## PRIMARY ELECTION DAY: JUNE 8

Polls will be open for Primary Election Day, on Tuesday June 8th, from 6:00am. To 8:00pm.

The last day to file a petition for the Primary Election is Monday, April 12, 2010. The last day to change party affiliation is Monday, April 19, 2010.

Tuesday, May 18th, is the last day to register

to vote in the June Primary Election.

Tuesday, June 1st, is the last day to apply by mail for an absentee ballot for the primary.

Saturday, June 5th, the County Clerk's office will be open from 9:00 am to 1:00pm for absentee ballot voting for the primary election.

## FRANKLIN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Franklin Township School has begun its long awaited construction project, which is being managed by Design Enterprises, Inc.

The removal of 12 trees, part of the planned school improvements and statutory requirements, include the following planned work items; a safer bus access, underground draining systems, and water storage tanks for the community's firefighters to access in emergencies.

In an effort to keep the community informed and to provide updated and accurate information available to the public, the school is providing general information links on its new Construction Website, which can be accessed through the school's website which is [www.ftschoo.org](http://www.ftschoo.org).

In addition, specific questions will be addressed through the joint efforts of the FTS school board and the school staff.

The Board has established a Communication Subcommittee that will be fielding questions and developing a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) that will be posted online.

Questions can be directed to [construction@ftschoo.org](mailto:construction@ftschoo.org). This sub-committee along with a Construction Subcommittee will be working in concert with the construction manager and school staff to inform the public with progress as the work proceeds.

By Chrys Harttraft, Franklin Township School Superintendent

## HAZARDOUS WASTE DAYS

Saturday, July 10th, from 9am—1:00pm is the county's next hazardous waste clean up day. You can bring in anti-freeze, fuel oils, insecticides, used motor oil, old paints, pool chemicals, and many other hazardous items.

The Electronic Collection day for computers, monitors and various electronics is Saturday, April 10th, from 9am-1:00pm.

Drop off on both days is from 9am to 1pm at the County Complex on Route 12 west of Flemington. The phone number is 788-1110.

After these collection days, the next scheduled date is will be July 10th.

Complete details are available at [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/miscinfo/cleanup.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/miscinfo/cleanup.htm).

## LANDLORD'S REMINDER

By law (N.J.S.A. 46:8-26), property owners must register rental units with the Municipal Clerk for legal protection of both landlords and tenants, and for emergency use. The Landlord-Tenant Registration form is available from the Municipal Clerk, Ursula Stryker.

## TENANT'S

Tenant's are encouraged to call Sue Dean, Clerical Assistant, to request that your name and address be added to the newsletter distribution list. Property owners receive the newsletter and directory. Please, if anyone knows of any tenants that would like to receive the newsletters we can add them to the list for future consideration. The main number for the municipal building is 735-5215.

Additionally, we do have past copies if anyone would like to get a copy of them.

## RECREATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Upcoming events for Franklin children of all ages sponsored by Franklin Township Recreation Commission, are as follows:

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Good Friday, April 2, 9:30am at South Ridge Community Church on Pittstown Road. Children can meet the Easter bunny at 9:30am. At 10:00am, the Easter egg hunt starts. Ages are preschool through 3rd grade. Refreshments and prizes will be given.

The annual Spring Fishing Derby is planned for Sunday, April 18th from 1:00pm till 3:00pm at Peterson Farm, 439 Quakertown Road. Its held rain or shine, Come out, enjoy yourself and catch a fish!

The Summer Recreation program will run during the weeks of July 12 and July 19, ending on Friday, July 23rd. The location of where it will take place this summer is still

being determined. Look for more information beginning in April both at the school and at the Municipal Building.

Franklin's summer recreation program is free for K—8th grade township children and will be run by Joanne Hyland. Arts & Crafts, outdoor play, board games and other activities make for a fun filled time. If you have experience with a craft or hobby that you might be willing to donate your time with at the program, please contact Joanne at 730-7912.

Additionally, applications will be available for Counselor's and Counselor-In-Training.

Openings are available on the Recreation Commission. If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact a current member on that team or contact Ursula Stryker, Municipal clerk at 908.735.5215.

## D.A.R.E CLOTHES BINS RELOCATED

The D.A.R.E. clothing bins have been relocated from the Wal Mart parking lot to the Pittstown Post Office. Currently the township has two bins.

If these bins are consistently full, the township will be able to obtain additional bins.

Revenue collected from these bins is used to subsidize the D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) program as well as the free annual D.A.R.E./Public Safety Day.

Thank you for your continued use.

## SENIOR NEWS

**MEETINGS AT FIREHOUSE**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 2:00pm.**  
 unless noted otherwise.

**Free membership is open to all Franklin Township seniors.**

*Please bring donations for the Quakertown United Methodist Church food pantry to each meeting.*

April 14— Prevention

Speaker, Hanna Maybie, from Prevention Resources will speak on Understanding the Changes Associated with Aging.

May 12— Older American  
 Celebrating Older American month. There will be a covered dish luncheon.

Senior Trips are still in the planning stage. When more definite information is available, it will be announced at the Senior meetings.

Screening Senior Health

To find out where and when a free health screening will take place contact Eleanor, Senior Health & Program Services at 782-7224.

### FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

Hunterdon County Division of Seniors, Disabilities and Veterans Services will offer free help to elderly, disabled or low-income taxpayers in preparing state and federal income tax returns. The volunteers who prepare the returns are part of a program of the Federal Internal Revenue Service and the N.J. Division of Taxation. The volunteers have completed a training course and the service will be confidential.

Tax assistance will be available beginning Monday, February 8th through Thursday, April 15, 2010.  
 Please call 908.788.1358 to sign up for assistance.

# Septic Maintenance Ordinance

## FRANKLIN FIRST IN THE COUNTY IN EFFECT

As an uncontrolled municipality (that is, exempt from the NJ Highlands Council), our Township is the first in the County to have enacted a Septic Maintenance Ordinance (Number 2009-09), effective December 10, 2009. This new Ordinance (Law) has no fines for violations. That's worth repeating here for full effect: This new Ordinance (Law) has no fines for violations. (By comparison, you should see what the Highlands-controlled municipalities have been strictly mandated to follow:

[www.highlands.state.nj.us](http://www.highlands.state.nj.us).)

Instead of using strict mandate, our new Law respectfully asks each of our Property Owners to voluntarily comply with registering information about his or her respective Property septic system and by taking care of that system at home. Our new law does not MANDATE it. Of course, it's all about protecting our one water supply in the Township; about protecting our public health, safety and general welfare; and about citizenship.

The goal is to have every Property Owner, who has a septic system, to responsibly have it pumped out routinely (and let us know your timetable) and to maintain it properly. The new law and maps recommend pumping out the system every three (3) years, but there are many exceptions (See new Law, Section 7 for details.) The new Law is reproduced on the internet at our Township webpage: [www.franklin-twp.org](http://www.franklin-twp.org).

It has taken years of effort by our Township's Land Use Board, Environmental Commission and Township Committee to hammer out the terms of the new law. It has its supporters and detractors. The naysayers have said the Citizens will not comply and must be forced to comply. So, one of our tasks under the new law will be to prove the naysayers wrong and we are confident. Logic and factual information will compel any doubter.

It is the right thing to do as a citizen; and we'll try, respectfully, to educate those who don't understand that "citizenship" includes

considering the healthy condition of the next-door neighbor's well-water.

We are hopeful in what some of the contractor-pumpers (with whom we have recently talked) are willing to extend as financial discounts to pump Franklin Township septic systems. We're going to keep in touch with the local pumpers and keep record of their discount offers and we'll keep that information available for you when you will need it.

Early on, the State Agency (DEP) announced that municipalities must enact laws to demand and strictly enforce septic-maintenance compliance before January 1, 2010. They (the DEP) later softened their "demand" late in 2009, just before the Governor election heated up and the following sentence was loudly used: "Not another State un-funded mandate."

It is altogether likely that the DEP will renew its demands on the municipalities after all the political dust settles in Trenton and all the surviving DEP workers are safely settled and tucked-in to their "important" jobs at DEP. But, Franklin Township will be ahead of them and we will be successful being respectful, not threatening. The point is the State does tend, occasionally, to miss the point about citizenship and respect.

So, in the next few months, the Township will begin to contact our property owners in writing about their respective septic system.

Plans are for it to be sent in the property owners' tax bill envelope. (Please watch for that insert.)

There are about 1,200 septic systems operating in our Township.

The Township will be setting up a computer, software, and designing forms (with the County's kind help) by which we will accurately compile the data about all our septic systems.

We need all the cooperation we can get to protect our one ground water. Your help is respectfully requested. Thank you.

## ARCHIVES ADD TO FRANKLIN'S HISTORY

Five people donated material to the Franklin Archives this quarter.

*Linda Mahler*, daughter of Mary Bodine, donated these items from her mother's estate: 31 photographs and 5 facsimiles; 19 books and booklets dating from 1938 to 2008 about Franklin and county history; 18 news clippings from 1931 to 2006; 17 newsletters from the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead, and Apgar Family Association; and 5 Grange and Quakertown Fire Company artifacts.

*James Passerello* contributed a 1938 real estate summary of his 67-acre farm on Quakertown Road. The land was purchased by Theodore Bernhard and Grace Martin Peters, his mother's parents, in 1918. Jim thinks they placed the farm on the market because of the recession, but when his mother announced her engagement to Nunzio Passerello, his grandparents stopped looking for a buyer.

Jim has since inherited the land and with his wife, the former Mary Timko of Delaware put it in farmland preservation.

*County Historian Stephanie Stevens* donated copies of J.E. Stout's booklet, *A Brief History of the Friends Meeting at Quakertown, N.J. from 1729 to 1976* and Kenneth Meyer's booklet, *Quakertown United Methodist Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 1836-1986*.

*Charles Thorne* gave photographs of the 1935 Sydney School students and the 1938 fifth and sixth graders at Franklin Township School. His daughter, Judy Morgan, saved a poster-size paste-up of a December 1, 1988 *Democrat* article, *Still-Rural Franklin Township Clings Happily to It's Past* from destruction, and Charles passed it on to the Archives.

*Lloyd and Dorothy Wismer*, after collecting historic penny postcards about Franklin, gave the Archives 22 of them plus five duplicate photographs of subjects on the post cards. Some of the images are included in the pictorial history book, *Franklin Township, Hunterdon County* available since February 15, 2010.

## HORSE LOVERS PARADISE

Residents of the Greater Pittstown area who like horseback riding are invited to join the Pittstown Trail Association. The organization, founded in 2002, has over 60 members and maintains a system of riding trails that encompass 2,500 acres. Memberships are calendar-year based and come with a million dollar liability policy. The cost is \$45 for individuals or \$65 for families with up to four riders. Identification tags are supplied. Trail maps are not made public to protect the landowners. New riders learn the trails by going out with seasoned members. Go to the group's website at [www.pittstowntrailassociation.org](http://www.pittstowntrailassociation.org) to learn more.

## FRANKLIN PTA

Sunday, April 18th from 9-12pm. Franklin Township School PTA will hold a clothing drive at Quakertown Firehouse. The PTA will collect wearable, useable clothes in well-tied black garbage bags. Also included in the collection: household items made of fabric, stuffed animals and small toys (that fit in a 24" X 24" X 21 box). Call Ellen Anderson with any questions (908) 238-3509 or access the FTS PTA website [www.ftspta.com](http://www.ftspta.com).

## CITIZEN LEADERSHIP FORM

There are several vacancies on some committees and commissions within the Township. Openings are available on the Agriculture Advisory Committee, Open Space and the Recreation Commission. If you are interested and would like to serve, a form will be mailed to you to complete. The form is called the 'Citizenship Leadership Form'. Call 735-5215.

## CLEAN UP THE SOUTH BRANCH APRIL 24

South Branch Watershed Association (SBWA) is holding for its 20th Annual Spring River Clean Up on Saturday, April 24th from 9:00am till Noon.

Volunteers are needed to help clean up the river and surrounding land at 21 sites throughout the entire watershed from the river's beginning at Budd Lake in Mount Olive to its end in Branchburg.

Last year, almost 700 volunteers collected several tons of trash at 21 sites throughout the watershed.

Other ways in which SBWA can use your help is:

- Financial Support—Through towns giving a contribution from the Clean Communities Program in support of this project.

- Clean Up Sites—SBWA is always looking for stream sites that would benefit from this project. Please let them know if you have any locations in your community that would benefit from this project.

Everyone is invited to participate. Individuals, scouts, schools, churches, senior citizens groups and other groups are encouraged and welcomed.

Please contact Jeremy Carlson at 782-0422 x 16 or [jeremycarlson@sbwa.org](mailto:jeremycarlson@sbwa.org) to obtain flyers and to let them know if you have a potential clean up site and any interested people in your community who are willing to help clean up.

The SBWA web site is: [www.sbwa.org](http://www.sbwa.org).

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Editor: Sue Dean

Email your news or article to  
ftadmin@franklin-twp.org  
or fax it to 735.7598

**MUNICIPAL BLDG. HOURS**

Mon-Fri: 9am - 4pm  
Tue: 7- 9pm

**Call: 908.735.5215****Fax: 908.735.7598****Franklin Township Website:**

Www.franklin-twp.org

**TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS****Municipal Clerk:** x 16*Ursula Stryker, RMC***Clerical Assistant:** x 10*Sue Dean***Const/Bldg Official: 735.5343***Mark Fornaciari, ICS**Jean Bahlman, Cert. Tech. Asst.***Planning Board Clerk:** x 18*Jean Beischer***Police Office: 735.6508****Police Dispatch: 782.9594****Tax Assessor:** x 13*Mary Mastro, CTA, SCGREA***Tax Collector: 735.6609***Linda Swackhamer, CTC*

Tue &amp; Thur, 12 to 3pm

**Zoning & Health Officer:** x 14*John Barczyk**Tues. 7-9pm*

**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR  
DOG'S LICENSE FOR 2010**



# Franklin Township

202 Sidney Road  
Pittstown, NJ 08867

Township Committee

Linda Jacukowicz, Mayor

Robert McGeary,

Deputy Mayor

Scott Baumann

Robert Shockley

Steven Tarshis

## FRANKLIN HAS NEW HISTORY BOOK

A new 128-page pictorial history book entitled *Franklin Township, Hunterdon County* is now available for purchase. The book is one of a series by Arcadia Publishing, the leading publisher of local and regional history in the U.S.

Authors Dan and Marty Campa-nelli, the well-known watercolor-ist and his wife, and Lora Jones, Franklin Township Historian, wrote the book as a project for Rural Awareness so all pro-ceeds will be used to benefit the community.

The book, which is priced at \$21.99, features over 200 never-before-published photo-graphs dating from 1860 to 2009.

The pictures were offered for the book from the private collections of 46 cur-rent and former township



Chester A. Schultz, 1922

families. More photographs were contributed by the Franklin Ar-chives, Hunterdon County His-torical Society, Hunterdon *De-mocrat*, Boy Scout Troop 108, and Quakertown Friends Meet-ing. Photo captions mention 214 family names, but one picture shows 450 people attending the 1938 annual banquet of the Hunterdon County Poultry Asso-ciation in the basement of Frank-lin's school.

The book also contains new in-formation regarding historic sites, events and dates, correct-ing data published in earlier his-tory books.

Books purchased from Rural Awareness will be signed by all three authors. Copies may be purchased from Rural Awareness members Brooks Durbin or Lora Jones. Call 908.735.4271 if you have questions.

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