

Ordinances and Notices

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT NONPOINT SOURCE (NPS) POLLUTION:

- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains—these outlets drain directly to lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.
 - Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
 - Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals properly—not in storm sewers or drains.
 - Participate in the annual household hazardous waste collection.
 - Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
 - Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.
 - Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorus to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams, and costal waters.
 - Keep the stream banks clear. Do not place logs, grass clippings or junk near or on the banks.
 - Placing any of your yard or home furniture, materials or junk near backyard streams will contribute to flooding!
 - Be respectful of your neighbors!
 - The Township is responsible for maintaining roads and inlets.
 - **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO KEEP YOUR STREAM BANKS CLEAN OF DEBRIS!**
- For more info visit: epa.gov/nps



Emergency Siren

- The Outdoor Warning Sirens alert residents of any emergency that requires the help of the Volunteer Fire Company.
- The sirens sound for less than one minute whenever the Volunteer Fire Company is summoned.
- For other emergencies, such as tornado warnings, the sirens will sound for five minutes non-stop.

Questions about the siren? Call 724-228-3330.



Speeding

- PLEASE SLOW DOWN!
- Always obey posted speed limits, especially in residential areas where children may be present.
- Watch for speed limit signs, “Children at Play” signs, and other important road markers. These are placed for your safety and the safety of others.
- Slow down in school zones, even if you don’t see children.
- Always stop for school buses when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.
- Distracted driving is dangerous. Keep your focus on the road and avoid using phones or other distractions while driving.



Grass

- Residents with an overgrown lawn - more than six inches in height - may receive a notice of violation from Code Enforcement along with a mailed citation. After receiving a citation, residents have five days to mow their lawn before being issued another citation. After three citations, the violation will be filed with the Magisterial District Judge.
- At the property owner’s expense, the Township reserves the right to mow the lawn and lien the property 10 days after a citation is issued.



Garbage Collection

- Rozner’s Refuse: 724-222-7711
- Waste Management: 724-222-3272



Police Related Issues

- Call 911
- North Franklin is patrolled by state police



Burning

- On Tuesdays and Saturdays, residents can burn container fires of untreated wood and paper from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Residents can burn for recreation in patio fire pits and other outdoor burners from 9:00 a.m. to midnight every day of the week.
- All open fires require a permit
- RESIDENTS CANNOT BURN GARBAGE FURNITURE, OR TREATED WOOD.



Street Obstruction

- It is unlawful to throw or shovel snow from driveways, sidewalks, or other areas onto streets.
- It is unlawful to throw grass clippings from your property onto streets.
- Those violating this ordinance shall be fined \$200 per occurrence.



Blighted Properties

- Residents are encouraged to report blighted properties to the Township office.
- The Township has demolished multiple blighted properties posing safety risks to residents, and will continue to pursue this issue.



Annual Leaf Pickup

- October 31 - November 30, Monday through Friday.
- No sticks, grass, brush, or plastic.
- Do not seal, staple, or tape bags.
- Paper leaf bags must be used. Leaf bags will be available at the municipal building.

NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

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Key Township Ordinances and Information

Summer 2025



DEAR RESIDENTS OF NORTH FRANKLIN AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES,

The North Franklin Township Board of Supervisors is pleased to present you with the Summer 2025 edition of the North Franklin Township Newsletter. Inside you’ll find Township developments and ordinances.

Township meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise advertised in the Observer Reporter.

We encourage residents to **sign up for Savvy Citizen at SavvyCitizenApp.com** to keep up with future Township news.

Sincerely,

North Franklin’s Board of Supervisors



Bob Sabot
Chairman (D-2029)



Mike Quinn
Vice Chairman (R-2025)



Ben Johnson
Supervisor (R-2027)

MUNICIPAL STAFF

Jackie Kotchman
Secretary/Treasurer

Diane Smykal
Tax Collector

Erin Dinch
Director of Planning and Development

Todd Lanch
Road Crew Foreman

Andrew Moore
Road Crew

Jake Folle
Road Crew

Jacob Bush
Road Crew

HOURS

Office | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Tax Collector | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday- Thursday



This Just In

GOV. SHAPIRO VISITS NORTH FRANKLIN, CAPS 300TH ABANDONED WELL



On March 12, 2025, Governor Josh Shapiro and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) gathered in Washington PA to celebrate the efforts of the state in plugging its 300TH orphaned or abandoned well. The 300TH well was plugged in our very own North Franklin Township. The well was leaking methane, which is a dangerous and poisonous gas. Improperly plugged wells can lead to many public safety and health concerns.

The well is located between the two reservoirs on the Township's Waterside Park property. The new park will cover an 89-acre area behind the municipal building where residents will be able to participate in recreational activities, event spaces, and opportunities for environmental education. The well was plugged through the combined efforts of Gov. Josh Shapiro and a state grant from the DEP. Work was completed with no additional cost to North Franklin taxpayers.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS COMMIT \$250,000 FOR NEW FIRE TRUCK

The North Franklin Volunteer Fire Department needs a new fire truck, which may cost up to \$900,000. With that in mind, the Board of Supervisors has approved \$250,000 to help achieve this goal.

Chairman Bob Sabot said that the Board of Supervisors recognizes the needs of the fire company and the importance of the relationship between the fire company and the Township.

It's estimated it will take three years for the new engine to arrive. The Supervisors will have that time period to place the money in a separate account for the fire company.

"We have the money and no tax increase will be needed for the fire truck or any of the ongoing projects that the Township has committed to," Sabot concluded.



Join Us for the Grand Opening Fall Festival at Our Historic Event Center!

We're thrilled to unveil our newly remodeled Waterside Park Event Center, a stunning transformation of the historic 1900 brick water filtration plant into a vibrant three-season pavilion! This unique space is set to become the heart of our community, hosting events and celebrations for all to enjoy.

Join us at our Fall Festival Grand Opening for a fun-filled day of family activities, local charm, and community spirit on Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 11 AM to 4 PM at the North Franklin Waterside Park Event Center (345 Franklin Farms Road).

What to expect: Get up close with our Touch-a-Truck experience featuring a firetruck, CAT loader, and tiger mower! Kids will love face painting, bounce house, and fun games, while everyone can enjoy cornhole, complimentary food, and a live animal show. Explore the beautifully restored pavilion and celebrate this new chapter in our township's history.

This festival is more than an event—it's the start of a new era for our community's gatherings. Come connect with neighbors, make lasting memories, and see how this historic space will bring us together for years to come. For more information or to volunteer at the festival, call or visit the Township Office or email e.dinch@nftwp.com.



The Township is placing litter patrol stations in our parks.

Grab a bucket and help us keep the parks clean!



Announcements

Waterside Park Progress

The 89 acre Waterside Park Project is underway near the North Franklin Township Municipal Building. The park will serve as a community center, providing recreational activities, event spaces, and educational opportunities. Grants from the PA DCNR and Washington Co. LSA are helping to fund improvements without a tax increase.

The park will serve as a link to North Franklin's past with the renovation of the historical water filter building. Created in the late nineteenth century, the water filter building provided water to the growing city of Washington. As a new open pavilion, it will serve as space for community events like flea markets or festivals throughout the year.

Citizens can currently fish in the reservoirs with a Pennsylvania fishing license. A new walking trail is being constructed around Reservoir 2 and will open this fall.

Next year will bring pickleball courts and a fishing dock/kayak launch on Reservoir 2. Plans also include a full-sized basketball court and playground, with construction coming as additional grant funds are received.



STOP INCREASING SCHOOL TAXES

On June 25, 2025, the Board of Supervisors voted to encourage the school board of Trinity Area School District to stop school tax increases on township residents and to commit to not raising property taxes for the next five years. North Franklin Township represents around 4,825 residents and these residents are subject to taxes imposed by the School District. During the past six years, many things, including inflation and housing shortages, have exposed residents to difficult financial times, while the School District has increased its property taxes every year. This Resolution was copied and provided to the Boards at Canton Township, Amwell Township, and South Strabane Township as well. This is the second year the Supervisors have suggested a stop to these continued tax increases.

NO INCREASE IN TOWNSHIP TAX

Residents of North Franklin Township will not see a tax increase in 2025! The Township has proposed a budget that has spending set at \$3.3 million which keeps spending within the budget.

Road Work Ahead!

The 2025 Paving Program is underway. This \$1,000,000 project will include paving of roads, as well as improvements of catch basins and drain lines under the streets. Roads included in the project are: VanKirk Road, Cleveland Road, Harrison Street, Wilson Street, McKinley Street, Oak Street, Taft Street, Roosevelt Street, Kadon Drive, Milbeck Drive, West Canyon Drive, and Roselawn Drive.

We ask that residents be aware of delays and pay close attention to road restrictions and flaggers. When paving is complete, be aware that all Township roads have a speed limit that remains 25 mph.

We ask that drivers please SLOW DOWN! We thank you in advance for your cooperation and consideration.

North Franklin Township Meeting Room Available for Rental!

The North Franklin Township Municipal Building has a meeting room for many events like graduation parties, bridal parties, baby showers, and more.

- Saturday or Sunday: \$500 for residents, \$700 for non-residents for a maximum of 6 hours
- Monday-Friday rentals available at a discounted rate.

For more information, or to schedule a tour, call the Township Office at 724-228-3330.

