

**SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
2008
PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Township Council
Municipal Building
Council Chambers
All meetings at 7:00 p.m.**

September 9, 23
October 14, 28
November 10 (Monday), 25

**Planning Board
Municipal Building
Council Chambers
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 3, 17 and 24
October 1, 15 and 22
November 5, 19

**Board of Adjustment
Municipal Building
All meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 4, 18
October 2, 16
November 6, 20

**Advisory Board of Health
Municipal Building
All meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 3 • October 1 • November 5

**Agricultural
Advisory Committee
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 8 p.m.**

September 18 • October 16 • November 20

**Business and Industry
Advisory Board
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 8 a.m.**

September 3, 17 • October 1, 15 •
November 5, 19

**Emergency Life Support
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 8 • November 10

**Environmental Commission
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 1, 15 • October 6, 20 •
November 3, 17

**Fire Prevention Board
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 4 • October 9 • November 13

**Hamilton Street Business
Community Board
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 4:00 p.m.**

September 9 • October 14

**Historic
Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 4 • October 2 • November 6

**Human Relations Commission
Township Library
All Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**

September 22 • October 27 • November 24

**Municipal Alliance for
the Prevention of
Substance Abuse
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 6:45 p.m.**

September 24 • October 22 • November 19

**Open Space
Advisory Committee
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 16 • October 21 • November 18

**Recreation Advisory Council
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**

September 10 • October 8 • November 12

**Redevelopment Agency
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 15 • October 20 • November 17

**Rent Leveling Board
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 10, 24 • October 8, 22 •
November 12

**Senior Advisory Committee
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 9:30 a.m.**

September 26 • October 31

**Shade Tree Commission
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**

September 25 • October 23 • November 20

**Trails Advisory Committee
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**

September 10 • October 8 • November 12

**Youth Service Commission
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 6:00 p.m.**

September 24 • October 22 • November 19

In and Around the Township

Township Begins HUD FY 2008 CDBG Program

In July the Township submitted its Fiscal Year 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Township Council approved the submission of the required 2008 Action Plan on June 24, 2008, and the program year began on September 1, 2008. The goals of the CDBG Program are to provide decent housing, maintain a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunity. All projects must primarily benefit low and moderate-income households. The following is a summary of the approved projects:

PROJECT	AMOUNT
Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Loan Program/Code Enforcement	\$159,292
Wilentz Senior Residence - Shower Stall Conversions	\$45,000
ARC of Somerset County- Handicapped Ramps	\$6,000
Family & Community Services - ARISE! Program	\$13,953
Homesharing Inc.- Homeless Matching Program	\$8,500
Somerset Coalition on Affordable Housing - Housing Counseling Services	\$13,076
Major Group- Youth Connection After School Program	\$10,000
Wilentz Senior Residence- Games for Seniors	\$3,000
Planning & Administration	\$64,705
TOTAL	\$323,526

Comments or questions on the CDBG Program can be directed to Bonnie vonOhlen, Grants Coordinator at the Township Municipal Building, 732-873-2500, Ext. 242.

Franklin Youth Initiative Update

The Franklin Township Youth Initiative (FYI) is a grass root committee under the direction of Mayor Brian Levine, Councilwoman Kimberly Francois, and Councilman Daniel Glicklich that is focusing on improving access to services for Franklin's youth and families. FYI encourages residents to visit their new website at www.franklinfyi.org to access information about a wide range of services and activities available for families in Franklin and Somerset County. The site has pages for both teens and parents. Organizations that sponsor events for youth and families can contact the Township through the website to requesting postings. Also, agency providers can contact the Township to post information if they feel that their services would benefit community residents.

Meetings of the Franklin Youth Initiative are held every other month on the first Monday of the month.. Events held during the past year included: A Gang Awareness and Prevention Workshop; SAFE Night for Teens; Employment Training Workshops for Teens; a Teen Job/Career Fair; and a Workshop on My Space and Effective Parenting. If you would like further information please contact the Recreation Department at 732-873-1991.

Environmental Resource Inventory Completed

Franklin Township recently completed an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) for the community. An ERI is a compilation of text, maps and other visual information about the natural resource characteristics and environmental features of an area. The index of the natural resources provides baseline documentation for measuring and evaluating resource protection issues.

The ERI was developed under the direction of the Environmental Commission. This project officially began in October, 2007 when the Township Council awarded a contract to Amy Greene Environmental Consultants of Flemington, New Jersey to complete the inventory. Funding for the project was provided by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and Franklin Township.

The ERI documents the Township's geography, topography, climate, air quality, geology, hydrology, and land use. It also describes the soil characteristics, vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, historical and cultural features, existing and planned infrastructure, contaminated sites and critical environmental areas, with text, figures, maps, tables and graphics that characterize each of these areas. It also includes an inventory of open space in the municipality and provides information regarding state and county plans that impact the Township.

The ERI was completed in July and was adopted by the Franklin Township Planning Board as an amendment to the Township's Master Plan. The document is available in the Franklin Township Library, and on the updated Environmental Commission's web page www.franklintwpnj.org/environmental-commission.html.

Updated Web Pages

The Franklin Township Environmental Commission has recently updated their web page on the Township website. Besides the new ERI, the results of the Environmental Survey we recently compiled based on responses from Township residents are now on our web page. Besides a phone directory, a new "Questions and Comments" section has been added to allow residents to submit, via e-mail, comments or questions to the Commission.

Affordable Housing Units Now Available For Rent And Sale

Several affordable re-sale condominiums and rental apartments are available in Franklin Township. Countryside and Somerset Park apartment complexes offer 1, 2, & 3 bedroom low and moderate-income units for rent when available. Whitehall Gardens offers 1 and 2 bedroom low and moderate-income rental units when available.

The Society Hill I-IV, Beacon Hill, Wynnefield and Quailbrook developments offer 2 and 3 bedroom re-sale condominiums when available. Lotteries will most likely be held.

Applicants must apply and be certified based on income and household size. To qualify for affordable housing, your income must be no more than 80% of the region's median income for moderate-income housing or no more than 50% of the region's median income for low-income housing. The maximum eligible income levels per household are as follows:

Household Size	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person
Moderate-Income Housing	\$54,152	\$61,888	\$69,624	\$77,360	\$83,549	\$89,738
Low-Income Housing	\$33,845	\$38,690	\$43,515	\$48,350	\$52,218	\$56,086

Region 3 Income Limits - Adopted March 25, 2008.

For an application and details about the availability of rental units at Whitehall Gardens, please contact Piazza & Associates at 609-786-1100. Website: <http://www.piazza-and-associates.com/afhousing.php>.

For an application and details about the availability of rental units in Countryside, Somerset Park, or any of the homeowner resale units at the Society Hill I-IV, Beacon Hill, Wynnefield and Quailbrook developments, please contact SCCOAH at 908-704-8901. Website: www.sccoah.org.

All units are available to seniors and non-senior households.