

**JUNE, JULY & AUGUST
2009
PUBLIC
MEETINGS**

**Township Council
Municipal Building
Council Chambers
All meetings at 7:00 p.m.**
June 9, 23 • July 14
August 11

**Planning Board
Municipal Building
Council Chambers
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 3, 17, 24 • July 8, 15, 22
August 5

**Board of Adjustment
Municipal Building
All meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 4, 18 • July 9, 16
August 6

**Advisory Board of Health
Municipal Building
All meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 3 • July 1 • August 5

**Agricultural Advisory
Committee
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 8 p.m.**
June 18 • July 16 • August 20

**Cable TV Advisory Committee
Municipal Building
All meetings 7 p.m.**
June 1 • July 6 • August 3

**Business and Industry
Advisory Board
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 8 a.m.**
June 3 • July 1 • August 5

**Emergency Life Support
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 8:00 p.m.**
July 6

**Environmental Commission
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 1, 15 • July 20 • August 3, 17

**Fire Prevention Board
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 11 • July 9

**Hamilton Street Business
Community Board
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 4:00 p.m.**
June 9 • July 14 • August 11

**Historic Preservation
Commission
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 4 • July 9 • August 6

**Human Relations Commission
Township Library
All Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**
June 22 • July 27 • August 24

**Municipal Alliance for the
Prevention of Substance Abuse
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 6:45 p.m.**
June 24 • July 22 • August 26

**Open Space Advisory
Committee
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 16 • July 21

**Recreation Advisory Council
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**
June 10 • July 8 • August 12

**Redevelopment Agency
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 15 • July 20 • August 17

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

**Senior Advisory Committee
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 9:30 a.m.**
June 26

**Shade Tree Commission
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:30 p.m.**
June 25 • July 23

**Trails Advisory Committee
Municipal Building
All Meetings at 7:00 p.m.**
June 10 • July 8 • August 12

**Youth Service Commission
Community/Senior Center
All Meetings at 6:00 p.m.**
June 24 • July 22 • August 26

In and Around the Township

9-1-1 and Dialogic Emergency Notification System How are Cellular Phones and VoIP Service Affected?

In emergency situations, the Police and emergency response teams rely on two valuable tools:

9-1-1 has been the standard method for years for residents to call for emergency assistance. When a call is made, the physical location of the call automatically comes up on the dispatcher's screen.

Dialogic Emergency Notification System allows the Police to call residents throughout the Township or in just certain areas to notify them of emergency situations. The original Dialogic automatically registered all listed telephone numbers. With the program update this year, all unlisted numbers are now registered as well.

But cell phones and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service (Vonage, ITP, Nextiva to name just three of the many companies out there) created a new problem for the Police. Since they are mobile, what location is going to show up on the dispatcher's screen when an emergency call is made? How can the Police reach residents if they are using a cell phone or VoIP phone service?

9-1-1 and cell phones

When a 9-1-1 call is made from a cell phone, it is routed to the 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) covering the nearest cellular tower or, in the case of Phase 2 Enhanced 9-1-1 cell phones, will use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to route the call to the PSAP responsible for the location the call is being made from. The Franklin Township Police Department is the PSAP for the entire township.

9-1-1 and VoIP phones

VoIP – Anyone using VoIP to call 9-1-1 should check with their provider to determine the procedures and limitations of their service, as each provider has different requirements.

Dialogic and VoIP & cell phones

If your primary phone is a cell phone or VoIP phone and you have no landline (hard-wired) phone in your home, you must register your VoIP or cell phone number to receive emergency notifications made via the Dialogic system. To register your number, visit www.franklintwpnj.org and click on the link on the Township homepage.

'Curb Hunger' Food Drive Celebrates 15th Year

Food donations for the annual Curbing Hunger program in Somerset County will be collected at the curb from June 1 through 26. You can help "curb hunger" in your community!

Colorful plastic bags are distributed to all households in May – look for one tied to the handle of your blue recycling bucket. Or, you can use any plastic grocery bag – just mark it with the word "Food."

Please place canned food donations in the bags and leave them at the curb on your regularly scheduled recycling collection days in June.

The food is distributed to the Food Bank Network and to other food pantries in the county.

The food bank's "most needed" list includes canned meat and fish, "meals-in-a-can" such as pasta, stews and meaty soups, canned tomato sauce, canned fruits, and peanut butter and jelly in plastic jars. Perishables and food in glass containers cannot be accepted.

The need is especially critical this year due to the economic downturn. Please help your less-fortunate neighbors who are struggling to feed their families during this difficult time.



Township Increases Fines for Riding ATVs on Open Space

In response to people illegally riding All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATVs) on township open space and causing significant environmental damage, the Township Council recently amended the ordinance that governs such illegal use. Highlights of the ordinance include:

- Vehicle operation on open space: There shall be no operation except on roadways or as signs direct.
- Use of motorized vehicles such as off-road, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), cars, trucks, motorcycles, snowmobiles, minibikes, trail bikes, motor scooters, go-carts, motorized skateboards or dune buggies is prohibited.

Under the old Ordinance, the fine was \$100. It has now been increased so that violations can result in a \$2,000 fine. Also imprisonment for a period of not to exceed 90 days and/or a period of community service of not to exceed 90 days are both possible.

Finally, any person under the age of eighteen (18) years who violates the ordinance shall be deemed to be a juvenile delinquent and shall be proceeded against as such.

New Property Maintenance Ordinance Affects and Benefits All

Franklin Township adopted an improved property maintenance code in March, 2009 to assure residents and business owners in Franklin Township that properties within the community are kept safe, clean and properly maintained.

This Property Maintenance Code, also known as Chapter 183, will be enforced by all Township Code Enforcement Officers. The provisions of this Ordinance 3778 cover areas such as:

- Registration and Inspection of Rental Units
- Minimum Standards and Requirements for Property and Structures, Fire Safety Requirements and Code Administration.

Rental Units

Of particular note, this ordinance provides for registration of rental units. New Jersey State law already requires that landlords of residential rental units file for a Certificate of Registration with the Township Clerk. Chapter 183 also requires non-residential rental units be registered with the Township before being occupied by any tenant. Forms will be available at the Township Clerk's office, or may be downloaded and printed from the Township's website at www.franklintwpnj.org. Fee for this registration is \$10.00 per rental unit. Existing rental units must be registered by June 30, 2009, with any changes thereafter reported to the township within 20 days of the change.

Non-Compliance

Township officials make every effort to work with property owners in their efforts to maintain their properties. However, the Code Enforcement Official may levy fines of up to \$2,000 per day, per offense for violations and/or non-compliance. In addition, an **owner-landlord can be charged a fine equal to annual tuition costs if residents illegally occupy a dwelling or use the dwelling unit to illegally attend a public school in the Township.**

The purpose of the Property Maintenance Code is to ensure a safe and healthy Franklin for all. It is recommended that all owners/landlords read the property Maintenance Code in Ordinance 3778, which can be found online at <http://franklintwp.nj.org/Ordinances> or at the Township Clerk's office.