

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP QUARTERLY GAZETTE



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Community Day - Aug 31, 2pm

*Rain Date, Sept 2

Hunterdon Games - Aug 24

Upcoming Meetings:

(except where noted)

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday

LAND USE

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of
each month

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Last Monday of each month

**Household cleanup and
bulky waste pickup days**

Sept 7

8:00am -12:00noon

85 Locust Grove Road

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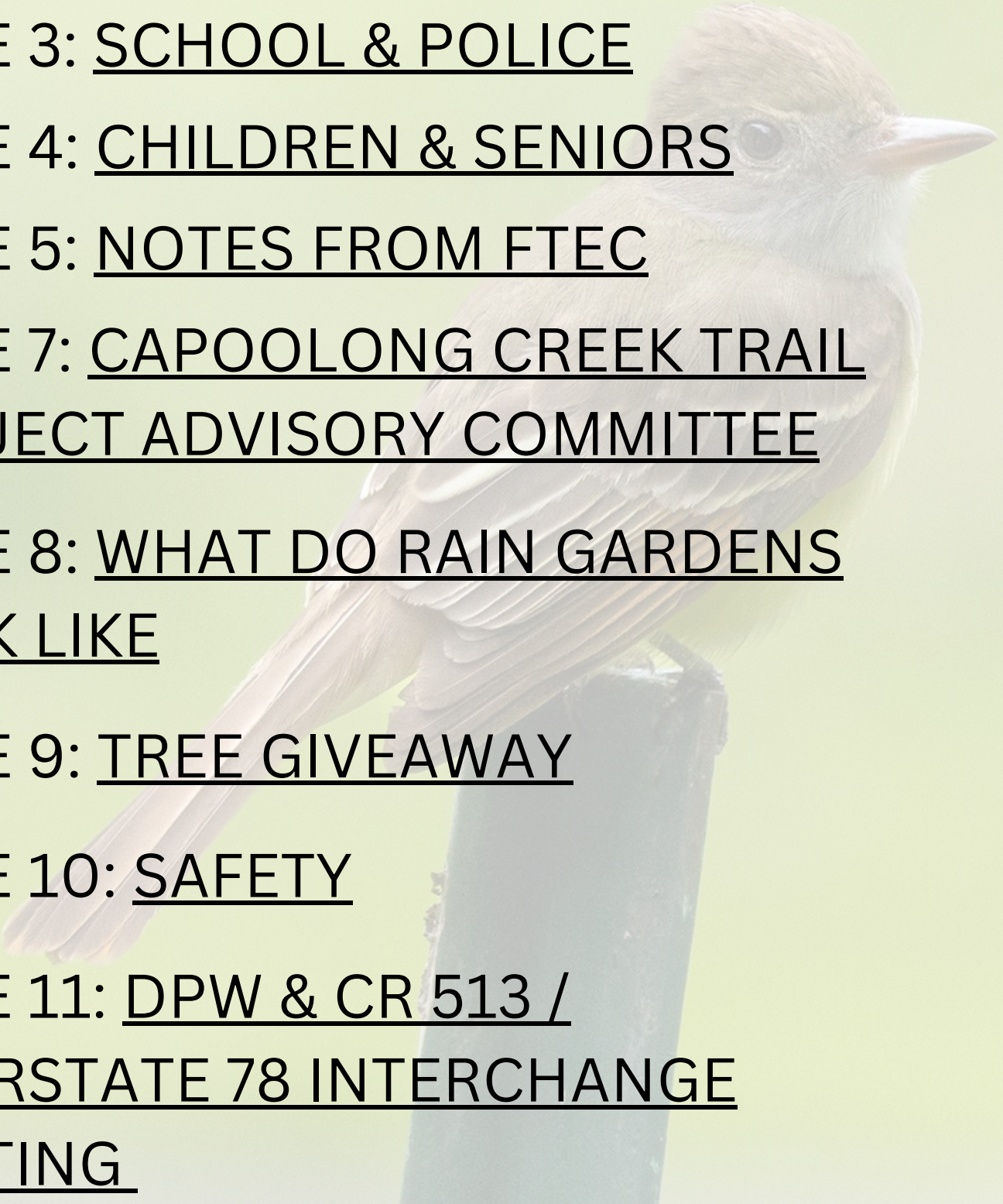
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SCHOOL & POLICE



CONGRATS PRINCIPAL GOODITIS!

DR. LINDSAY GOODITIS HAS BEEN NAMED THE 2024 NAESP NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL! HER EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION HAVE EARNED HER THE HONOR OF REPRESENTING NEW JERSEY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS OCTOBER. CONGRATULATIONS, DR. GOODITIS!

WELCOME OFFICER ALAN HILL

THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO PATROLMAN ALAN HILL IN THE PRESENCE OF OFFICER HILL'S FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

OFFICER HILL IS REPLACING ANOTHER OFFICER THAT HAS RECENTLY LEFT THE DEPARTMENT.



CHILDREN & SENIORS

Easter Egg Hunt was a great success!



The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at the Elks Club and was enjoyed by young and old alike. It was well attended by grandparents, parents, children, government officials, our well loved police officers, and the Easter Bunny of course! The children had a great time gathering eggs and looking for those special prizes!!



Attn Seniors /Xfinity Customers!!

“Effective July 1, 2024, the senior discount in New Jersey will change to 10% off Limited Basic. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-11.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:16-3:20 age and income restrictions will apply. Customers who are currently receiving a senior discount will continue until the customer makes a change to their services (discount is not available to customers who receive Xfinity TV services through a Business or Bulk Agreement).”



NOTES FROM FTEC

What can Individual Property Owners Do to Foster Ecological Awareness in Franklin Township?

Franklin Township's Environmental Commission is charged with the protection, development, and use of natural resources in the township. But how can the Environmental Commission best accomplish this important responsibility when it has very limited financial resources and no regulatory powers?

This newsletter article presents a "first step" by which Environmental Commission members hope will encourage our township's individual property owners to join them in fostering ecological awareness in our wonderful community, and in so doing, help the township to better realize its goals of in protecting, developing, and wisely using of its natural resources.

Step 1:

Property Owners Should Reduce the Amount of Land Area Devoted to Lawns and Instead, Provide Landscaping Dominated by Native Plants.

Why should Franklin Township's Property Owners do this?

- Native plants include grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees that were naturally growing in Franklin Township when the first settlers arrived from Europe. For this reason, native plants like it here. They are adapted to the local soils, water, temperatures, and weather patterns and hence do well here.
- The leaves and flowers of native plants emerge when native pollinators are active, thus preserving the important ecological relationship between native plants and the pollinators that rely on them, and native plant's summer fruit or winter berries also provide food for local wildlife, which in turn serve to disperse the native plants' seeds, which, in turn, serves to naturally increase the ranges of native plants in any given area.

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NOTES FROM FTEC

- Native plants are generally more resilient and less susceptible to pests and diseases than non-native plants, and hence generally require less “care” in the form of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

- Lawn areas generally need to be fertilized annually and watered during periods of low rainfall, whereas native plants tend to not require such treatments. In short, native plantings are part of the “native” ecosystem and thus contribute to the well-being of our native birds, bees, butterflies, and all other local animal species.

Large lawn areas, however, tend to be “ecological wastelands” as described by Douglas W. Tallamy, the author of *Natures Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation in Your Yard*, published in 2019.

So, how can Franklin Township’s individual property owners help the Environmental Commission in its efforts to protect, develop and use our township’s natural resources?

It’s simple – individual property owners can help to foster ecological awareness in our community by converting some of their own lawns to a landscaped areas comprised of predominantly of native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees – and then tell their neighbors why.

The Franklin Township Environmental Commission will be continuing to collect resource materials relevant the design and planting of native plant landscapes and would



CAPOOLONG CREEK TRAIL PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mission, Goals, and Objectives of the Capoolong Creek Trail Project Advisory Committee to the Franklin Township Committee

Mission:

The Capoolong Creek Trail Project Committee wishes to explore available options to assist the residents of Franklin Township in their efforts to restore and maintain the trail, which has fallen into disrepair. We wish to protect this natural resource for its environmental and recreational value for residents and the State of New Jersey while maintaining Franklin Township's rural character.

Goals:

- (1) Develop and submit to both the Township Committee and, with their approval, also to NJ Fish & Wildlife options and a plan of action for restoring and maintaining the Capoolong Creek Trail.
- (2) Retain the rustic and natural quality of the path while ensuring its safety for all who wish to use it.

Initial Objectives Include:

- (1) Review and create maps of the Trail corridor
- (2) Identify, prioritize, and record areas in need of repair
- (3) Explore and identify financial, human, and material resources
- (4) Develop an efficient and organized plan for trail repair
- (5) Report back to The Township Committee with our findings

Project Advisory Committee Members: Elizabeth Basile, Frank Tota, Larry Potter, Bruce DeRites, Ingrid Taff and Taylor Fischer

Liaison between Township Committee, NJ Fish & Wildlife and Capoolong Creek Trail Advisory Committee: Deputy Mayor Sebastian Donaruma

WHAT DO RAIN GARDENS LOOK LIKE

AND WHAT STORM WATERMANAGEMENT PURPOSE DO RAIN GARDENS SERVE?

Rain gardens are landscaped areas, generally established in manmade shallow depressions, which are designed to receive storm water runoff from nearby impervious surfaces and infiltrate that runoff slowly into the ground.

In this way, rain gardens provide storm water runoff with the opportunity to interact with the plants and soils in the garden, providing water for the plantings themselves and the opportunity for pollutants in the runoff to be broken down and filtered, thus helping to ensure that “clean” runoff will serve to recharge local groundwater levels, thus helping to maintain local stream flows and ground water supplies, while at the same time minimizing local flooding.

A local example of a rain garden:

In the above photograph, as rain falls on the entire front portion of this residential home’s roof, the storm water runoff from the roof flows directly off the roof (no gutters) and falls on to a narrow, stoned area located on the ground immediately under the roof’s edge (not visible in the photo, as it is hidden behind the garden). The stoned area dissipates the energy from the falling runoff and the runoff then slowly seeps into the adjacent gardens located in front of the home where it infiltrates into the garden’s soil.

And the best thing – Rain gardens don’t look like storm water management facilities. They simply look like landscaping.

Prepared by: John A. Thonet, Member of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission

If any Franklin Township resident would like some guidance regarding the planning and process necessary for incorporating rain gardens into their property’s landscaping, please feel free to contact the Franklin Township Environmental Commission through our [Franklin Township website link](#).



TREE GIVEAWAY

EARTH DAY TREE GIVEAWAY A SUCCESS

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 82405 from Franklin Township School and all the community volunteers who joined the Environmental Commission to distribute free tree seedlings in April for Earth Day, as part of New Jersey Forest Service's Tree Recovery Campaign. A big shout-out as well to DPW's Rick Roll for picking up the seedlings from the nursery. During the morning event, 575 seedlings of a variety of species – promising flowers, fruits, and nuts – were distributed to more than 100 residents.

When properly planted and maintained, trees can be assets to a community. They improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood or business district, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

The Tree Recovery Campaign has distributed more than 828,000 tree seedlings to New Jersey residents over the course of its first 11 years. With natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy and the damage caused by several new invasive insects to New Jersey, our state needs more new tree seedlings than ever before. The program is a joint effort between Franklin Township Environmental Commission, NJ Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program, NJ Forest Service Nursery, New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts, Arbor Day Foundation, FedEx, Texpo Energy and Tomorrow Energy.



GRASS IN THE ROAD: THE HIDDEN RISK MOTORCYCLISTS FACE

Summer brings perfect weather for both lawn care and motorcycle rides, but a hidden danger lies in the road: grass clippings. These seemingly harmless clippings can become a major hazard for motorcyclists, creating slippery conditions similar to ice. When grass clippings are blown onto the road, they can reduce traction, especially on curves, leading to potential accidents.

Motorcycle safety experts emphasize the need for awareness. Riders should be vigilant about road conditions, and homeowners must responsibly manage lawn debris. Justin Lovely, a motorcycle injury lawyer, highlights that motorcyclists often overlook the threat of grass clippings until it's too late. He compares the hazard to an oil slick, stressing the importance of avoiding road debris.

Lawn care professionals and homeowners can help mitigate this risk by altering mowing techniques, using grass baggers, or mulching clippings. Additionally, many cities have laws against depositing grass clippings on roads due to environmental concerns and public safety. Adopting these practices not only protects motorcyclists but also benefits the lawn and the environment. Let's keep our roads safe for everyone by ensuring grass clippings stay off the pavement.



NOTES FROM DPW

1. Electronic Waste is accepted during regular business hours at the DPW yard.
2. Roadside mowing has started, PLEASE be aware of the tractors alongside the roadways and give them plenty of room to mow.
3. As per the Stormwater Regulations, blowing grass onto the roadways is not allowed and needs to be cleaned up. The grass clippings make their way into storm drains and clog up the drainage, as it also creates a very slippery condition for both bicycles and motorcycle's.
4. Please remember that any wood product needs to be cut down to 4ft or shorter in length to be allowed at any Clean Up Day. Larger pieces will damage the machines at the Transfer Station.
5. As always, Please give DPW space to work while they are on the roadside. If there are barricades on the road, DO NOT drive around them. They are there for a reason, i.e. Wire Down, Tree down or DPW could be working in the roadway.
6. Franklin Township is a Clean Community, which means we are a litter free community.



Special Projects & Public Hearings CR 513/Interstate 78 Interchange Preliminary and Final Design; Federal Project No. STP- 0332 (105) DES

There will be a virtual Public Information Center regarding CR 513/Interstate 78 Interchange Preliminary and Final Design to be held on July 10, 2024. The meeting will be held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Jacobs Engineering will be presenting through Microsoft Teams. If you have comments and can not attend, please click link below, fill out form, and return to the Hunterdon County Engineering Office by Friday August 9, 2024.

- [Public Notice CR513/I-78 Exit 15 July 10, 2024 \(PDF\)](#)
- [CR513/I-78 Exit 15 Public Comment Form \(PDF\)](#)