

THE FRANKLIN POST

The City of Franklin's Quarterly Newsletter



Creating a Culture of Innovation

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Franklin's quarterly newsletter, "The Franklin Post!" We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates and exciting developments from our vibrant community. As we embark on this journey together, our aim is to keep you informed about the positive changes taking place right here in our beloved city.

In each issue, we will shine a spotlight on the city's ongoing redevelopment projects, showcasing the revitalization efforts that are breathing new life into our streets, parks, and neighborhoods. From infrastructure improvements to beautification initiatives, we will share the stories behind the transformation of our community.

We will also bring you the scoop on the newest businesses setting up shop in our area. We'll introduce you to the entrepreneurs and visionaries who are contributing to our local economy, creating jobs, and enhancing our community's offerings.

This newsletter will also serve as a platform to celebrate the countless victories and good news stories happening all around us. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey of discovery, inspiration, and community pride. Together, we will celebrate our city's growth, its entrepreneurial spirit, and the heartwarming moments that make Franklin a truly special place to call home.

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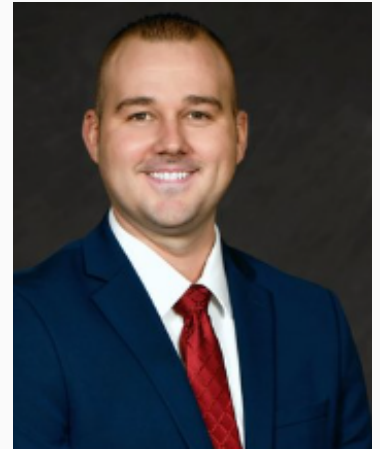


MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Franklin!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our new community newsletter! On behalf of your Franklin City Council and staff, we are committed to fostering transparent communication and unity within our community and this newsletter serves as a yet another vital tool in achieving that goal.

We have so much going on in Franklin that we felt it necessary to provide another way of updating you with all of the progress. Along with our website (www.FranklinOhio.org), Facebook page (@FranklinOhio.org), Instagram (@cityoffranklinoh), LinkedIn (/company/franklinohio), and CivicReady App. for your smartphone, we want to bring another platform for the residents to get continuous updates on the progress in our town.



We know that Franklin thrives on the strength of our connections, so I encourage you to stay engaged, participate, and continue to be part of the progress of our community. Together, we are achieving great things, and we all look forward to sharing this journey together.

Below you will find information on our upcoming Town Hall meeting. We invite you to join us as we provide updates on current and upcoming projects within the City!

Warm regards,
Brent W. Centers, *Mayor*
Franklin City Council



The graphic features a dark blue background on the left with white and yellow text, and an aerial view of a school cafeteria on the right. The cafeteria has a large, colorful circular logo in the center of the room. The logo is a stylized '5' with a sunburst pattern in shades of blue, yellow, and red. The text on the left provides details for the Town Hall Meeting, including the date, time, location, and website. A QR code is also present.


TOWN HALL
Meeting

Join us on April 9 at 6pm at the new Franklin High School for a Town Hall meeting. City Leadership will provide updates on current and upcoming projects within the City.

 TUESDAY, APRIL 9  6:00 PM

 FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
140 E. 6TH STREET
FRANKLIN, OH 45005

 FRANKLINOHIO.ORG





DISCOVER A LOCAL GEM: PISANELLO'S PIZZA

In March of 1983, Tom Combs opened Pisanello's Pizza in Franklin. Shortly after, his son Brian joined the family business. He was five years old and earned five cents for every pizza box he folded. Today, the Combs family has served the Franklin community for over 40 years.

As Brian transitions to the main point of operations for the business, guarding the legacy his dad has built is of utmost importance. "It's a hard act to follow. I want to protect the reputation he's built. We've been in business for 40 years, and I'd love to do it for 40 more."

Tom says that the legacy of a family business is part of the small-town charm that you can't get in a bigger city. "Just like with Mears Insurance, where Shane has taken over, I want people to be able to say, 'I remember buying pizza from your dad.'"

The Pisanello's legacy has been built on quality and community. Their dough is made from scratch daily and vegetables are chopped fresh every morning. "We choose food products based on quality, not price," says Brian. "Everything is made from scratch. That produces a different taste that you won't get at another pizzeria." Their commitment to quality has earned them the "Best of Warren County" award for pizza three times, including their most recent win in March 2024. Both Tom and Brian agree that "this community has been great to us, and we want to continue to give back."

"We look forward to embracing the downtown life that we hope to see grow out of this (Main Street) project." The on-street dining and expanded walkability of downtown has them toying with the idea of a "Downtown Menu" that won't be available via delivery, due to quality control. "In the warmer months, this could let us retain more customers when our dining room is at capacity."

Of course, Tom and Brian are anxious for the streetscape project to be done. But Tom shared he felt it was God that led him to their current location at the corner of 4th and Main. "It was a lot to take on, with three floors. But it allowed us to be a part of our customers' celebrations. I love owning a business where people make lifetime memories." Pisanello's has hosted a variety of events in their second and third floor event spaces, from 90th birthday parties, to baby showers, and everything in between. "It's a blessing that God led us to this building. No one knew twenty years ago what would be happening now."



Pisanello's Pizza

Open Mon.-Sat. 10:30am-8:00pm

355 S. Main St.

Franklin, OH 45005

(937) 746-9252

<http://www.pisanellosoffranklin.com>

STREETSCAPE UPDATES



Franklin's Modern Makeover Unveiled

The City of Franklin is boldly planning to ensure our great City captures the type of growth and economic development that will lead us into the future. To help bring energy, interest, and investment into the area, it is crucial to update aging infrastructure and create a pleasant environment along the Main Street. Dive into plans for Main Street Streetscape project:

- Reconstruction of Main Street from First Street to Sixth Street, including portions of some side streets
- Creating bump outs at the intersections for pedestrian safety
- Installation of street trees, parking meters, furniture, and planters
- Converting Main Street to two-way traffic
- Removing the traffic signal at Fourth Street
- Modifying the signal at Second Street
- Moving the overhead electric on Fourth Street underground
- Installation of a lighting structure, and catenary lighting at Fourth Street
- Replacement of the water main, storm sewers and lining the sanitary sewers
- Upgrades to electrical power system to handle larger loads and update aging equipment

Aided by urban planners and architects, the streetscape project updates crucial infrastructure and will create pedestrian-friendly walkways and gathering spaces that will transform the downtown into a welcoming area.



Scan the QR Code
to see more
information and
the latest updates
on Franklin's Main
Street Streetscape
Project!

STREETSCAPE UPDATES



A Massive Feat of Coordination

Utilities and coordination for all aspects of our downtown revitalization efforts continue to demand huge amounts of attention from our public works team, all in addition to their normal duties.

Not only are crews tasked with identifying what is uncovered, but they must also contend with the size and scope of upsizing the capacity of our infrastructure system, as we plan for growth and expansion. This reality means that we must make field adjustments to account for new regulations, while maintaining service to our residents and the businesses who are operating every day despite all of this work going on.

Duke Energy- One of the major benefits of this project is the upgrades to Franklin's electrical grid surrounding this project. The downtown project benefits our residents as the power system is upgraded to handle larger loads, new poles, and new wires that are no longer brittle with age.

Utility Consolidation- With the new poles, which relocates the remaining overhead distribution system at a higher elevation, we have taken advantage of the opportunity to relocate telecom and other overhead services along the alleyways.

Shoutout to our Public Works Department- The Streetscape Project has put quite a strain on our Public Works Department as construction crews are unearthing some of the very early street catch basins, pipes, and other materials long buried and forgotten. We sincerely appreciate their team tracking down issues, in some instances, solving the problems, and essentially, keeping things moving forward. Those efforts not only keep progress moving, but also reduce costs associated with the project. Thanks Public Works Department!



Shop Local, Support Downtown Businesses!

Shopping local isn't just about buying products; it's about investing in our community. As we navigate through these updates to Main Street, we ask that you remember the importance of supporting our downtown merchants. Your support makes a difference!

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Small City, Big History: The Old Log Cabin Post Office, 475 River Street, Franklin

If you happened to have lived in Franklin in December of 1974, you may have watched the community's historic log post office travel south on River Street from its location at 310 S. River to its present site along the Great Miami River at 425 S. River Street. The intact building was taken by truck on a 6-hour journey to begin another chapter.

Over the years, the original cabin was added to and covered with clapboard. The building was eventually owned by Judge J.T. Riley who discovered the original log structure and gave it to the Franklin Area Historical Society in 1974. In 1976, the log post office was placed on the National Register of Historic Places



Today, the Historical Society still cares for the log post office and staffs the site with volunteers. In addition to maintaining the post office, the group runs and maintains the Harding Museum in the Mackinaw Historic District.

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the historical society, more information is available on their website: FranklinOhioHist.org.

ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

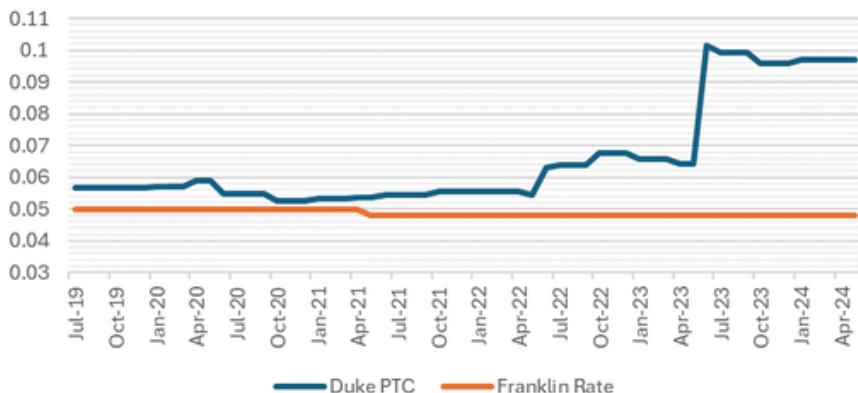
The City of Franklin voters authorized an opt-out Electric Aggregation program available to its residents that provides a fixed electric supply rate for eligible customers with Duke Energy. Opt-out aggregation allows the City to pool together its residential electric load and shop for lower electric supply rates in bulk, similar to how one could get a discount by buying in bulk at a large box store.

The first contract began in May 2018 for a 3-year term, followed by another 3-year term beginning in May 2021 and scheduled to end this May. The current contract is through Constellation and offers a fixed rate of \$0.0479/kWh, compared to Duke Energy's current electric supply price-to-compare of \$0.097/kWh. In the past 12 months, the average resident participating in the City's aggregation has experienced savings of around \$540 compared to if they were still an electric supply customer with Duke Energy.

The City has negotiated a new agreement with Energy Harbor to serve as the electric aggregation supplier beginning in May 2024 for an 18-month term. The best available market rate for the program is \$0.0631/kWh compared to Duke Energy's rate of \$0.097/kWh currently.



City of Franklin
Electric Aggregation Rate Performance



At the beginning of each new aggregation contract, eligible residents are sent an opt-out letter from the supplier selected by the City. This letter details the new rate, term, and gives a resident 21-days to opt-out of the program if they do not wish to participate. For this contract, the letters should be expected in March from Energy Harbor.

If you are ineligible for the opt-out letters, you can still participate in the aggregation rate negotiated by the City. Please contact our consultant on the aggregation program, Jordan Haarmann with AGE, at 618-203-8328 to inquire about how you can join the City's aggregation program.

For more information, scan the QR Code or visit our website: FranklinOhio.org/Aggregation



UPCOMING EVENTS

An Exciting Lineup of Community Events

Join us for an exciting lineup of events this spring and summer that promise to be a good time! From parades and farmers markets to camps and blood drives, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Come connect with your neighbors, make new friends, and create lasting memories. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details on these fantastic opportunities to have fun, learn, and give back. Let's make this spring and summer unforgettable together!



Scan the QR Code for the most updated calendar!



Save the Date!

- April 4th: Community Blood Drive
- April 8th: Solar Eclipse Event
- May 4th: Community Blood Drive
- May 25th: Farmers Market every Saturday thru September
- May 27th: The Jim Mears Memorial Day Parade
- May 27th: Pool Opens (12pm- 7pm)
- June 3rd: Summer Park Programs with Tennis Lessons for Beginners, followed by Beginner Soccer Camp
- June 4th: Community Blood Drive
- August 6th: National Night Out

✂️ *Hang on the fridge!* -----
✂️



INVENTING OUR FUTURE

1 Benjamin Franklin Way

Franklin, OH 45005



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH...

Stay Connected

The City of Franklin uses "Civic Ready" to send Emergency Alerts, Public Notices, Community News and Events, as well as Utility Information. We invite you to register to receive alerts, either by Phone, Text, and/or Email.



To register, simply click the QR Code or go to:
www.FranklinOhio.org/Alerts to sign up today!



WWW.FRANKLINOHIO.ORG