

Hot off the Press:

Welcome to the City's inaugural edition of A Focus on Franklin. In January 2008, the Franklin City Council stated that one of their top priorities was to increase public and community outreach and to get important information out to the residents of the City of Franklin on a more regular basis. A Focus on Franklin will be periodically inserted into the City's water bills. We hope you find the information helpful.

Inside this issue:

Smart Planning

2008 Goals

Current Projects

City Income Tax Returns

Property Maintenance Tips

Congressman's Rep to Arrive



A Focus on Franklin



2008 Goals

For the last several years, the Franklin City Council has held a goal-setting session providing staff with direction for the upcoming year. The main priorities for this year include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Continue to improve the City's relationship with the Franklin School District, the City of Carlisle and Franklin Township;
- ◆ Continue to pursue economic develop-

ment strategies and opportunities that are beneficial to the City;

- ◆ Explore ideas for beautifying the City's entrances;
- ◆ Research Rental Inspection Programs and continue to stress property maintenance as a priority, and;
- ◆ Improve communications with residents.

Smart Planning...Bright Future

Three key plans that are critical to the City's development are the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Zoning Code, and the Site Plan Code. The City is currently in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code – we would like to thank the City volunteers who are assisting in this review process. It is anticipated that both of these plans will be presented to City Council for their review in 2008. The City's Site Plan Code was updated in 2007.

In addition to working on the City's long-range plans, Franklin has also partnered with the City of Springboro, Warren County, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission to improve State Route 73. Franklin and Springboro were able to obtain funding,

through the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, to rebuild the bridge over State Route 73. That bridge improvement should begin in 2009. As part of the project, the bridge pillars will be widened to accommodate additional lanes on State Route 73 in the future.

In addition, the Ohio Department of Transportation is currently working on a State Route 73 traffic signalization project, which will unify the Franklin, ODOT, and Springboro traffic signals into one system. It is anticipated that this will relieve some of the traffic congestion in the area. Last, the Warren County Commissioners and the War-

ren County Engineer agreed to fund the right-turn lane that was recently constructed on State Route 73 at I-75. We would like to thank the above entities for partnering with Franklin.





Our Efforts to Improve Your Quality of Life

As you drive through Franklin in the next few months, you will notice several infrastructure improvement projects including, but not limited to, the following:

The Franklin Business Water Tower: The water tower, located off Shaker Road, is currently being assembled. This improvement will improve the water pressure in

the southeastern quadrant of the City and will enhance economic development opportunities as well;

State Route 73 Improvements from Stadia to Dear-doff Road: This project has started and will include storm water and sidewalk improvements;

Poplar Street: This project, anticipated for the spring of

2008, will include storm water and sidewalk improvements;

Park Avenue from Lynn to the Railroad: This project, anticipated for the spring of 2008, will include street and storm water improvements.

City Income Tax Returns

The deadline to file your 2007 City Income Tax return is fast approaching. This year's due date is Tuesday, April 15th. As a service to

our residents, City staff will help complete the tax return for you on a walk-in basis at no charge. We simply need your supporting documenta-

tion, including W-2s, your Schedule C (if applicable), and a copy of the first page of your federal tax return.

"The deadline to file your 2007 City Income Tax return is... Tuesday, April 15th."

Property Maintenance Tips

After the long winter, most of us will be excited to see the weather get warmer and to begin working in the yard or to start spring-cleaning. When doing so, however, please keep in mind the City's property maintenance code, which helps to maintain property values and to keep our neighborhoods attractive. Some of the more important sections include the following:

Grass should never be permitted to grow any higher than 10 inches;

Shrubs and trees should be trimmed so as not to affect sidewalks and to help maintain visibility of cars;

Vehicles that are unlicensed or inoperable are subject to citations;

Trash and debris should be placed at the curb and, if you are throwing away any unusual items, please contact the City's utility department (746-9921) in order to ensure that it will be removed. Please do not rake grass clippings into the sewer drains;

Your home's exterior should not have peeling paint.

Many property maintenance issues are resolved when neighbors discuss the matter. However, the City does contract with the National Inspection Corporation (NIC) for code enforcement. If you have property maintenance concerns, NIC can be contacted at 1-888-433-4642. They were quite active in 2007 by reviewing/enforcing over 1,000 property maintenance items.



Questions or Comments?

If you have you have a question or comment, please contact the City Manager, James Lukas, at 937-746-9921 or jlukas@franklinohio.org

Congressman's Representative Coming to Franklin

Congressman Mike Turner's Director of Special Projects and Warren County Outreach, Marty Heide, will meet with residents and businesses periodically throughout the

year at the Franklin City Building. These sessions will occur from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the following Thursdays: April 24th, May 22nd, June 26th, July 24th, August

21st, September 25th, October 23rd, and November 20th. Marty will be available for discussion on a variety of local, state, and federal issues. No appointment is necessary.

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