

Franklin Selectman's Corner

What nice foliage we have in the seven hills of Franklin! With the adverse forest we have, it offers an artist's palate of colors.

Due to the upcoming election, the Offices of the Franklin Town Hall will be closed for business on November 5, 2019. Voting will take place in the lower level of Town Hall from 6am until 8pm. The Registrar's office upstairs will be open as usual.

Work is progressing on the RT. 32 Sewer Project. There are occasions where the Contractors will work past the hours set by the DOT. At times, conditions warrant completion of the area they are working in to minimize hardship on the resident or business in that area. The Traffic has been horrible, so to try to avoid the construction, consider going over Murphy Road or Meetinghouse Hill Roads and proceed down on Rt. 87. The Intermunicipal Agreement with Norwich Public Utilities has been signed. This agreement sets the flow capacity we have purchased and the limits on the effluent we discharge thru our lines as well as the rates NPU will charge the Town of Franklin. The Franklin WPCA has been meeting to set regulations and rates for our water and sewer customers in Franklin. Regulations and rates should be set by the end of November.

The Public Works Department has received delivery of the new Mason Dump Truck. A 2019 Dodge Ram 4500 Diesel with a plow and slide in sander will replace the existing 2003 Ford Mason Truck. The latter will be up for sale on Craigslist in the next two weeks. Once an offer is tendered, the Board of Selectman will review and approve prior to the sale. Public Works continues to do roadside mowing, maintenance on the Public Works vehicles and equipment, and cleaning of leaves in the catch basin grates to prevent flooding during rain events. The Transfer Station will be open Saturday, November 2nd, from 8am to 12pm. A listing of Transfer station fees can be found on the town website. As a reminder, the Town Transfer Station now accepts mattresses and box springs at no charge. The brush dumpster is available Monday thru Friday 8 am to 2pm. No brush larger than 3" diameter will be accepted.

The Woodward House Museum painting has started. R H O'Connell Painting, of Yantic, submitted the low bid and was awarded the contract. The Museum building painting should be completed before winter, with the adjacent Barns to be finished in the Spring. The driveway to the Museum was recently torn up and repaved, as the old driveway was too fractured to save. Slowly but surely, we are making needed repairs to our assets and infrastructure. I feel it is the duty of your elected officials to maintain Town assets in proper condition.

The Underground Storage Tank replacement at the Franklin Elementary School has been completed. The new above ground tank has been installed behind the cafeteria. The old tank was at the end of its usable life and was due for replacement. By installing an above ground structure with all exterior piping above ground, we reduce our liability for accidental spills and will see a reduction in our insurance cost.

The M-42 Duster anti-aircraft gun on tracks for the Veterans Memorial Park, has been picked up from the VFW in Wallingford. It has been set in place on the pad just south of the Veteran's Park, next to the Public Works access road.

I would like to schedule an informal Town Hall session for the month of November. I know it has been awhile, but its been very busy with the projects that were completed this year. The next session will be held on Thursday November 21st, 2019, 7 pm, at the Town Hall. If you have any subjects you would like to discuss, please feel free to let me know ahead of time so I can prepare.

If you have any questions or concerns about Town affairs, please feel free to call me at 860-642-6055, extension 16 or my cell phone 860-886-3114. Better yet, come in to visit! The Town Hall is open Monday thru Thursday 8:30 am until 3:00 pm, and Tuesday evenings from 6pm until 8 pm. I am always available to answer any questions or field any concerns.

