

FRANKLINTON NEWSLETTER

A product of Franklinton Development Association



Introduction



Happy March! We are coming up on 1 year since Ohio was shutdown due to COVID-19. The vaccine gives us hope, but we must remember to mask up and practice social distancing until more people are vaccinated. Remember to spring forward on Sunday, March 14th! This newsletter is another way to expand our reach in the community, and highlight resources and events on the Westside. As always, check [Franklinton.org](http://franklinton.org) for updated information. Future issues can be found online at <http://franklinton.org/newsletter/>.

Announcement: Assistance with Property Valuation

The Franklin County Board of Revision (BOR) is now accepting complaints from homeowners who disagree with their appraised property value through March 31. To help lower- and middle-income homeowners, the Franklin County Board of Revision and The Legal Aid Society of Columbus have launched the Pro Bono Assistance Program, which is designed to help qualifying homeowners file a complaint with the BOR. The free program consists of filing clinics staffed by real estate professionals who can also refer homeowners for possible further representation at their board hearing.

The program can help qualifying homeowners navigate the BOR complaint process, helping with guidance about your home's appraised value set by the Auditor, whether you should contest the value, and how much you should file for.

To register, complete the online registration form OR call 614-525-HOME. Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/b4ksLudwiHLfJ9tr8>. Questions or concerns? Contact Nate Sikora, Policy Analyst, at npsikora@franklincountyohio.gov or 614-653-1375.



Announcement: CCS Grades 6-12 Blended Learning



The remainder of Columbus City Schools students will return to the classroom for blended learning beginning on March 15th. Students in grades 6-12 will return to in-person learning with a phased-in plan. Cohort A will meet Monday/Tuesday and Cohort B will meet Thursday/Friday. Schools will be closed for cleaning on Wednesdays.

Starting March 15th, all students in grades 6, 11, and 12 will begin blended learning (Cohort A will start on 3/15; and Cohort B will start on 3/18). Starting March 22nd, all students in grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 will begin blended learning (Cohort A will start on 3/22; and Cohort B will start on 3/25).

Find more information about reopening: <https://www.ccssoh.us/reopening>.

Announcement: Free Tax Filing Services

If your total income is \$65,000 or less for 2020 and you live in Central Ohio, you qualify for free filing clinics. We want you to get all of the money you have worked for this past year. No fees, no charges, no hidden catches. Just free expert help from trusted partners like Nationwide Children's Hospital, United Way of Central Ohio, CelebrateOne and StepOne.

What to bring to your appointment: *Identification* (Picture ID for you and your spouse - Driver's License, State ID or Passport; and Social Security or ITIN for you, your spouse and any dependents); *Tax Forms* (W2s; Other income forms like 1095, 1098 or 1099; Social Security income statements; Pension income statements); *Gig Documents* (Childcare provider expenses; Tuition, student loan and school expenses; Receipts; Mileage logs; "Gig" documents from places like Uber or Lyft); *Other important items* (Routing and account numbers for direct deposit; Health insurance documents; Last year's tax return (if available)).

Schedule an appointment online: <https://614filefree.org/file-for-free/>.

Announcement: Franklinton Cycle Works Expansion



Franklinton Cycle Works is expanding their building! Construction will begin at 897 W Broad St during the first week of March and should wrap up around April 10th. This expansion will allow FCW to expand its workshop, programs, and retail space. FCW will be seeking volunteers for painting and other odd construction jobs. If you are interested in volunteering with this construction, please contact info@franklintoncycleworks.org.

Announcement: COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Get text updates from Columbus Public Health when the vaccine becomes available for eligible groups. Text "VaxCbus" to 888777. Columbus Public Health continues to offer a drive-thru vaccine clinic for those in 1A and 1B, pending vaccine availability. 1A includes health care workers, EMS responders, and staff and residents at long-term care facilities. 1B includes individuals over 65 years old, K-12 school employees, and people with severe health conditions. Please check this page for updates:

<https://www.columbus.gov/publichealth/Coronavirus-Portal/>.



Resource Highlight: Financial Navigators

The Financial Navigator program connects residents with trained specialists who provide one-on-one guidance and identify immediate action steps that residents can take to help manage their expenses, maximize their income, and access community resources. The Financial Navigator program is a collaboration between the City of Columbus, LSS- 211, and the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. Callers will fill out an interest form online (link below) and navigators will call back within 48 hours to conduct a session. Sessions typically last 15-20 minutes, and each caller will receive an individualized call summary upon session completion.

Navigators can help you prioritize financial concerns, identify immediate action steps, and make referrals to programs and services. During the call, Navigators can help with: Prioritizing daily living expenses, maximizing income, emergency cash assistance, and emergency loans, managing debt (credit cards to student loans to child support), avoiding predatory scams, accessing other social services, and budgeting for future loss of income.

To speak to a Navigator, request an appointment by calling 211 or completing the online application: <https://columbus.gov/financialnavigator>.

Resource Highlight: CAP4Kids

CAP4Kids (Children's Advocacy Project 4 Kids) Columbus is a website that makes it easy to quickly connect children and families to local free and low-cost resources. Resources cover housing, utilities, clothing and food to child care, health care, counseling, after school/summer programs and more. The website can be translated into 29 other languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Nepali, Somali and Spanish. Families can find out about seasonal fun free family events by signing up for the monthly e-newsletter on the website and/or follow CAP4Kids on Facebook @CAP4KidsColumbus and Twitter @CAP4Kids.

Learn more at: <https://cap4kids.org/columbus/>.

Survey Opportunity: East-West Corridor Study



The East-West Corridor represents 20 miles of diverse people, communities and businesses that connect within and beyond Central Ohio. The goal of the East-West Corridor Plan is to expand the ability and options for our community to get where they need to go and create great spaces to increase residents' quality of life. We want to work with the community to reimagine what reliable transit and shorter travel times could mean in expanding opportunities for everyone.

Communities included in this project: Prairie Township, Franklin Township, Hilltop, Franklinton, Downtown, Olde Towne East, King-Lincoln-Bronzeville, Near East Side, Bexley, Whitehall, Jefferson Township, and Reynoldsburg.

Take the survey: <https://linkuscolumbus.com/east-west/>.



Calendar of Events: March

To see more details on the events listed visit: <https://franklinton.org/resources/events/>.

M	TU	W	TH	F	SA/SUN
1	2 Virtual FAC Zoning Committee @ 6PM	3	4 Westside Virtual Office-less Hours @ 10-11:30AM	5	6/7

M	TU	W	TH	F	SA/SU
8	9 Virtual Franklinton Area Commission @ 6PM	10 Virtual Safe Sleep Ambassador Training @ 1PM Celebrate One Stroller Social @ 6:30	11 Dodge Rec Center Produce Giveaway @ 3-5PM	12 Franklinton Friday @ 6-10PM	13/14 Daylight Savings Time on 3/14

M	TU	W	TH	F	SA/SU
15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20/21

M	TU	W	TH	F	SA/SU
22	23 Virtual Safe Sleep Ambassador Training @ 10AM	24 Virtual FAC Housing & Development Committee @ 5:30PM	25	26	27/28

M	TU	W
29 Virtual Safe Sleep Ambassador Training @ 11AM	30	31

Questions? Comments?
Call us at 614-275-4988, or send us an email at info@franklinton.org.

