

Franklin Township Police Department

495 Demott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 873-5533 EXT. 3192

Special Press Release

January 19, 2024

Search Underway in the area of the Delaware and Raritan Canal

On January 19, 2024, at approximately 4:49PM, the Franklin Township Police Department received a 911 call from a resident reporting a man yelling for help near the Delaware and Raritan Canal, beyond the Rose Garden at Colonial Park.

Responding officers, along with neighboring jurisdictions, arrived on scene and searched the area to establish the source of the initial distress call.

Currently, the FTPD is continuing to pursue all investigative measures in light of the initial call of an individual in distress.

The Franklin Township Police Department would like to remind residents traveling along the canal and towpath, please look for postings that provide guidance regarding prohibited areas and activities.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to immediately contact the FTPD at 732-873-5533.

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Special Press Release

Tuesday October 15, 2024

Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash

Somerset County Prosecutor John P. McDonald, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Chief of County Detectives Frank Roman and Franklin Township Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather announce an ongoing investigation into a fatal motor vehicle crash. On October 15, 2024, at 7:24AM the Franklin Township Police Department received a 9-1-1 call reporting a motor vehicle crash involving a head-on collision on Amwell Road near South Middlebush Road.

Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMS Personnel responded to the scene. The driver and sole occupant of one of the vehicles was pronounced deceased. The driver and passenger of the other vehicle sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

The factors that contributed to the crash are currently under investigation by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team and the Franklin Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Jelani Lanier at 732-873-5533 extension 3246 or at jelani.lanier@franklinnj.gov.

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Press Release

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Franklin Township Police Department Announces Citizen's Academy

The Franklin Township Police Department (FTPD) is excited to announce another session of its Citizen's Academy, a unique program designed to provide residents with an in-depth understanding of how the police department operates. Starting September 4th, the academy will run for 12 weeks, with sessions held every Wednesday evening from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

The Citizen's Academy offers participants a rare opportunity to meet and interact with FTPD personnel from various units, learning firsthand about their roles and responsibilities that keep our community safe. Whether you're interested in law enforcement, community service, or simply want to learn more about how your local police department functions, this program is designed to offer valuable insights.

Our Citizen's Academy is an excellent way for residents to get to know the dedicated men and women who serve our community. It's not just about education; it's about building strong community relationships.

Interested residents are encouraged to sign up for the Citizen's Academy via our website at <https://franklintwp.seamlessdocs.com/f/CitizensAcademy>. Spaces are limited, so we encourage early registration.

For more information, please contact Detective Sergeant ReBecca Lea at rebecca.lea@franklinnj.gov or Officer Kenneth Reid II at kenneth.reid@franklinnj.gov.

About the Franklin Township Police Department:

The Franklin Township Police Department is committed to serving and protecting the community with integrity, fairness, and professionalism. We strive to maintain the highest standards of excellence in law enforcement through community partnerships, innovation, and dedication to duty.

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Special Press Release

Thursday May 9, 2024

Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash

Somerset County Prosecutor John P. McDonald, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Chief of County Detectives Frank Roman and Franklin Township Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather announce an ongoing investigation into a fatal motor vehicle crash. On May 9, 2024, at 9:07AM the Franklin Township Police Department received a 9-1-1 call reporting a motor vehicle crash involving a southbound vehicle into a tree on Route 27 near Reler Lane.

Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMS Personnel responded to the scene. Due to the extent of the injuries sustained, the victim was pronounced deceased at 9:30AM.

The factors that contributed to the crash are currently under investigation by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team and the Franklin Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau.

A section of Route 27 was closed for approximately four (4) hours as a result of the motor vehicle crash.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Andre Tirado at 732-873-5533 extension 3230 or at andre.tirado@franklinnj.gov.

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Special Press Release

Saturday June 1, 2024

Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash

Franklin Township Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather announced an ongoing investigation into a fatal motor vehicle crash. On June 1, 2024, at 12:17AM the Franklin Township Police Department received a 9-1-1 call reporting a motor vehicle crash involving a motorcycle on Easton Avenue near DeMott Lane.

Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMS Personnel responded to the scene. Due to the extent of the injuries sustained, the victim was pronounced deceased at 1:01AM.

The factors that contributed to the crash are currently under investigation by the Franklin Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau.

A section of Easton Avenue was closed for approximately three (3) hours as a result of the motor vehicle crash.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Robert Meyer at 732-873-5533 extension 3236 or at robert.meyer@franklinnj.gov.

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Press Release

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Residential Fire Displaces Local Residents

On Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 11:44AM, the Franklin Township Police Department responded to a residence on Ambrose Street after receiving a call reporting a structure fire. Arriving units observed fire and smoke emitting from the roof of the single-family residence.

Firefighters from the Franklin Township Office of Fire Prevention, East Franklin FD, Community FD, South Fire New Brunswick FD, North Brunswick Co.3 FD, Bound Brook FD, Finderne FD, Elizabeth Ave. FD, Millstone Valley FD, and River Road FD were involved in the response.

EMS personnel from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital also responded. No residents were reportedly injured. The American Red Cross responded and provided temporary relief, including shelter, to all those affected.

The cause and origin of the fire are under investigation by the Franklin Township Office of Fire Prevention. An initial investigation indicates the fire does not appear to be suspicious.

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Press Release

January 17, 2024

Recent Suspicious Activity

"If you see something...say something... IMMEDIATELY!"

There has been an increased number of suspicious activities within our community. The Franklin Township Police Department asks for your help in identifying and preventing criminal acts. If you see something, please immediately say something even if you believe it is insignificant. It is nice to share with your social media community, but the police also need this information in a timely fashion. Please immediately call 732-873-2300 if you witness or have information about suspicious individuals or activity.

Also, during the winter months many residents stay inside. Please keep your front, back and side exterior lights on at night; and report street light outages. If you are away for a significant time, have someone check on your residence or you can contact us at 732-873-2300 to notify us when you will be away.

Some examples of recent suspicious activities include the following:

December 12, 2023 – Boudinot Lane

At approximately 549AM, two male suspects attempted to gain access to a residence through a window but were unsuccessful.

December 19, 2023 – Boudinot Lane

At approximately 549AM, a resident reported seeing a flashlight shining into the foyer. No attempts to gain access were reported.

December 19, 2023 – Quick Court

At approximately 800PM, officers responded to a burglary alarm at a residence. Upon arrival, officers found a rear door shattered and the residence unoccupied.

January 11, 2023 – Woodfield Court

At approximately 448AM, a resident reported seeing three suspects attempting to gain access through a first-floor window. Suspects fled upon seeing the homeowner.

January 16, 2023 – Canvass Court

At approximately 810PM, officers responded to a burglary in progress. Upon arrival, officers found the sliding door shattered. Multiple suspects made entry into the residence but fled shortly after entry. The homeowner was home and unharmed.

“Community Policing aids the investigative process and plays a crucial role in solving these cases. We are asking our residents to be observant and IMMEDIATELY share anything that may help our police officers and detectives. Our officers are working tirelessly, and your information, Ring Video Doorbell or any other evidence may give them a lead. Please help us, help you. ”- Public Safety Director Quovella Maeweather

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact Detective Sammy Hernandez (Sammy.hernandez@franklinnj.gov) at 732-873-5533 extension 3154; or anonymously at 732-873-5533 x7277 or anonymousFTPD@franklinnj.gov.

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Press Release

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Posted Signs and Flags Set on Fire on Residential Property

On Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 8:23AM, the Franklin Township Police Department responded to a property on DeMott Lane after receiving multiple calls reporting a flag on fire on the front lawn of a residence.

Upon arrival, responding units observed remnants of two custom flags, along with the mounting hardware, damaged by fire. There were no reported injuries as a result of the fire.

The cause and origin of the fire are under investigation by the Franklin Township Office of Fire Prevention and the FTPD Investigative Division. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact Detective Sammy Hernandez (Sammy.hernandez@franklinnj.gov) at 732-873-5533 extension 3154; or anonymously at 732-873-5533 x7277 or anonymousFTPD@franklinnj.gov.

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Press Release

Friday, December 13, 2024

**Public Safety Announcement
Private Drone Light Show**

Public Safety Director Quovella Maeweather announced on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at approximately 9:30 P.M., there will be a private drone light show taking place above The Palace at Somerset located at 333 Davidson Ave. The company responsible for the drone light show has the necessary approvals from The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The show involves approximately 200 drones, which will be limited to the area above The Palace at Somerset. The show is expected to last 15 minutes.

There is no cause for alarm and no need to contact 911 to report the drone activity confined to this area during the above date and time. Local fire officials and law enforcement are aware of the event.

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Press Release

Friday, March 1, 2024

Residential Fire Displaces Local Residents

On Friday, March 1, 2024, at 8:13PM, the Franklin Township Police Department responded to a property on Easton Avenue after receiving a call reporting a fire inside or towards the back of the property. Arriving units observed fire and smoke emitting from the building.

Over 100 Firefighters from Somerset Fire (Command), Middlebush FD, Millstone Vally FD, Elizabeth Ave. FD, East Franklin FD, Community FD, Sound Bound Brook FD, Bound Brook, Finderne FD, North Brunswick Co. 3 FD, Hillsborough Co. 1 FD, Manville FD, Middlesex FD, Raritan FD, and Somerville FD responded.

EMS personnel from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, East Millstone, and Montgomery Rehab also responded. One firefighter was injured because of the incident but did not require hospitalization.

Traffic on Easton Avenue was temporarily disrupted for multiple hours as a result of the incident.

The cause and origin of the fire are under investigation by the Franklin Township Office of Fire Prevention. The Franklin Township Fire Inspector noted the initial investigation indicates the fire does not appear to be suspicious.

Note: The property has been unoccupied since Hurricane Ida and is currently under construction.

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Press Release

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Building Fire on Hamilton Street

On Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 6:35 PM, the Franklin Township Police Department responded to an address on Hamilton Street after receiving a call reporting a possible basement fire.

Police officers arrived and found smoke and fire smoldering from inside of the walls. Firefighters from Somerset Fire and Rescue Company and Community Volunteer Fire Company responded to the scene to extinguish the blaze.

No one was injured or displaced as a result of the fire. The cause of the fire was undetermined and not deemed suspicious by the Franklin Township Fire Inspector.

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Press Release

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Franklin Township Police Investigate Lewd Act

On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, the Franklin Township Police Department received a report of a lewd act. A 69-year-old female reported that at approximately 4:15pm, while walking on the towpath north of Route 518, she sat down on a bench next to an unknown male. Approximately five minutes later, the victim observed the unknown male masturbating. The unknown male then attempted to converse with the victim, but the victim ran away and left the scene without any further interaction from the suspect.

The suspect is described as an olive skinned male with dark brown hair, beard, approximately 5'11, between the age of 16-18 years old, and wearing a grey T-shirt with brown sandals.

This lewd act is under investigation by the FTPD Investigative Division. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact Detective Sammy Hernandez (Sammy.hernandez@franklinnj.gov) at 732-873-5533 extension 3154; or anonymously at 732-873-5533 x7277 or anonymousFTPD@franklinnj.gov.

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Press Release

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Motor Vehicle Crash with Serious Injuries Requires Helicopter Transport

Franklin Township Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather announce an ongoing investigation into a serious motor vehicle crash. On March 15, 2024, at 10:10 PM the Franklin Township Police Department received a 9-1-1 call reporting a single motor vehicle crash involving four occupants, on Canal Road between Coppermine Road and Old Georgetown Road.

Responding officers performed lifesaving efforts until care was turned over to emergency medical services. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital BLS and paramedics requested the landing of New Jersey State Police's NorthStar helicopter. A 17-year-old female occupant was transported to a local area hospital for treatment of a serious head injury. Three other juvenile occupants were also transported and treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

The factors that contributed to the crash are currently under investigation by the Franklin Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Andre Tirado at 732-873-5533 extension 3230 or at andre.tirado@franklinnj.gov.



News Release

Saturday, November 9, 2024

Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash on Easton Avenue

Somerset County Prosecutor John P. McDonald, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Chief of County Detectives Frank Roman and Franklin Township Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather announce an ongoing investigation into a fatal motor vehicle crash. On November 6, 2024, at 1:07PM the Franklin Township Police Department received a 9-1-1 call reporting a motor vehicle crash involving another vehicle and a fixed object northbound on Easton near Arlington Avenue.

Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMS Personnel responded to the scene. Gian Barrecchia, 67-year-old resident of New Brunswick, who was the driver and sole occupant of a 2021 gray Nissan Sentra, was pronounced deceased. The driver and passenger of a 2018 white Ford Transit sustained minor injuries.

The factors that contributed to the crash are currently under investigation by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team and the Franklin Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Robert Meyer at 732-873-5533 extension 3236 or at robert.meyer@franklinnj.gov.



News Release

Friday, November 8, 2024

Franklin Township Announces Safe Return of Missing 88-Year-Old Monroe Mobley After Two-Day Search

Franklin Township, NJ – [11.8.24] – Franklin Township Public Safety Director Quovella M. Maeweather is pleased to announce the safe return of 88-year-old Monroe Mobley, who had been missing for two days. “It is with great joy that I can share this evening Mr. Monroe Mobley was safely reunited with his family after being reported missing for over 48 hours,” said Director Maeweather. “The Mobley family, our first responders, and our community worked together to bring a miracle to Franklin Township just before the holidays.”

Details of the Search Efforts

On November 6, 2024, at approximately 4:30 PM, Mr. Mobley went for a walk from his residence and did not return after several hours. Concerned family members contacted the Franklin Township Police Department, and an immediate investigation was launched. Police coordinated with multiple agencies, and a large-scale search effort began that included the use of K-9 units and drones to help locate Mr. Mobley.

At approximately 5:15 PM today, Mr. Mobley was safely located in a wooded area within Franklin Township. He was brought to safety thanks to the tireless work of local law enforcement and numerous partner agencies, including:

- Somerset County Office of Emergency Management
- New Jersey Search and Rescue (SARS)
- Somerset County Sheriff’s Office
- NJ Department of Corrections (NJDOC)



- Franklin Township Fire Prevention
- State Park Police K-9 Jetty
- New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

Despite the challenges posed by difficult terrain and weather conditions, the coordination between agencies and volunteers led to a successful and heartwarming conclusion.

“This rescue effort was a true testament to the dedication of our police department and our partners,” said Director Maeweather. “Today is a proud day for our community, and I want to remind everyone to prioritize the elderly and at-risk members of our population. Everyone needs a hand sometimes, and together, we can make a difference.”

Raising Awareness About Alzheimer’s Disease

This incident also serves as a reminder of the importance of awareness and preparedness, particularly for families with elderly loved ones. Alzheimer's disease, which slowly destroys memory and thinking skills, is a leading cause of cognitive decline in older adults. Franklin Township encourages families to engage in open conversations when they notice any changes in cognition or behavior in elderly family members.

For more information on Alzheimer’s disease and caregiving resources, please visit the National Institute on Aging’s Alzheimer's Disease Fact Sheet: <https://www.nia.nih.gov>.

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Press Release

January 22, 2024

Crime Prevention

“The Franklin Township Police Department, along with other towns statewide, have experienced a recent increase in crimes in our neighborhoods, specifically high-end car thefts. The safety and well-being of those who live, work, and visit Franklin Township is our mission and primary objective.”

- Public Safety Director Quovella Maeweather

Luxury vehicles are being exploited because of their enhanced technology. From intercepting radio frequencies from your key fob to reprogramming blank key fobs, high-tech thefts remain challenging. However, there are ways to make yourself less likely to be victimized.

- Park vehicles in a locked garage.
- If parked outside, ensure the driveway is well lit.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times.
- Do not leave your vehicle running.
- Don't keep key fobs near the front door/garage. The signal can be accessed by standing near the door.
- Keep key fobs in a metal bag/box to block the signal.
- Use an aftermarket steering wheel lock device to help deter theft.
- Install an aftermarket alarm that alerts you when the car door is opened.
- Install an aftermarket GPS system that can't be easily detected/blocked by a GPS-signal-blocker.

The Franklin Township Police Department encourages you to report any theft to your vehicle, even if an attempt was made but your vehicle was not stolen. This allows the FTPD to collect data that may help investigate these crimes. You can make a report by calling our non-emergency number at 732-873-5533.

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Press Release

Monday, September 2, 2024

Gunshots reported in the Area of Franklin Boulevard

On September 2, 2024, at approximately 1:15AM, Franklin Township Police Department dispatch received a 9-1-1 call reporting gunshots heard in the area of Franklin Boulevard, between Matilda Avenue and Baier Avenue.

The FTPD responded and located evidence of several gunshot rounds. No one was reported injured.

This incident is currently under investigation by the FTPD Investigative Division. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact Detective Sammy Hernandez (Sammy.hernandez@franklinnj.gov) at 732-873-5533 extension 3154; or anonymously at 732-873-5533 x7277 or anonymousFTPD@franklinnj.gov.