

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Annual Report for 2016

January, February, March and April – Visitors stop by when they are visiting the Library or attending Sr. Citizens' events. Lots of sorting and filing took place. We need an 8"x10" photo of Mayor Neely for our collection of Mayors on display. Also needed in similar size is a photo of former Chief Rock, and current Chief Zimmer.

May – 2016 – A large group of Delsea Senior High Students visited the History Center while waiting to put on a program for the Sr. Citizens. They enjoyed the complete collection of Delsea Year Books starting from the first graduating class of 1961 to the current year. They also enjoyed trying to guess what the items were in our "What is it?" display. One student thought the chamber pot with lid was a crock-pot. I explained he was half right, it was a pot; however, it was a chamber pot that was utilized for a toilet and disposed of outdoors. Of course the student was grossed out. I pointed out that we did not always have indoor plumbing with water at the twist of a faucet, or lights with a flick of a switch. They also were amused with the rotary dial telephone.

May 15, 2016 – Open House noon until 3:00 p.m. featuring the Historical Advisory Committee, the Township of Franklin Library, the Country Garden Club and the Franklinville Railroad Station. Visitors enjoyed the various displays offered. The History Center featured a "What is it?" display featuring old items for visitors to try and guess what the item was and what it was used for in the past years.

June 18, 2016 – The History Center and Franklinville Railroad Station were opened in support and celebration of the Township of Franklin's Library 50th Anniversary Celebration. The event started at 10:00 a.m. and continued until 2:00 p.m. Visitors were treated to a book sale, music, a performance by the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts, face painting, balloon sculptures, photo ops with Captain America and a farmers market. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day of celebration.

Wednesday hours of 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. seem to work out well. Visitors may range from 3 or 4 to 10 to 15 some days. Tuesday hours of 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. also have been successful. Some Thursdays and Tuesdays have had coverage; however, one volunteer's mother had a stroke and another volunteer is Colorado working as a travel nurse for 3 months. There are some days we are scheduled to be open, we are closed, due to the fact the volunteers have other commitments. As volunteers, we do our best and enjoy the interaction of the public and sharing our Township's History. My personal telephone number is posted on the door should residents have questions or need assistance.

September 10, 2016 – Participated in the 24th Annual Community Day. The theme for the event was Super Heroes. Super Heroes items were on display provided by Committee member Carolyn Gant. One Delsea Regional High School Year Book per decade was on display, various past years' Community Calendars with historic pictures,

items related to the 15th anniversary of 9/11, and a small "What is it?" display. Post cards were also available and Township pins. Visitors to our booth enjoyed the yearbooks and pictures on the Township Calendars. Several people questioned why they no longer received the calendars in the mail as they had in the past and added that they always looked forward to the pictures featured in the calendars. It was an extremely HOT day and extreme thanks to the volunteers that set up our tent and greeted visitors to our display.

December 3, 2016 – Christmas at the Center event. Over 220 people visited the Franklinville Railroad Station. The Railroad Station was manned by descendants of the Albertson family, who donated the Station to the Township and has their Lionel Train Display and collection of Railroad memorabilia on loan in the building.

Over 300 people visited the Historical Center. They got to see some local history on display and a collection of old toys. They also had the opportunity to try out some low tech, no battery or electric required operated toys. Many of the visitors had no idea the Township had a local Historical Center. The Passport game the children played, where they visited local sites to get their Passports stamped, brought lots of new people into the Center to visit.

We provided a color photo from our files to the family of former Chief Wright who passed away in December. We were saddened by the passing of two other retired Officers from our Police Dept. Lt. Robert Lindmeier and Lt. Joseph Olsen.

Appointments – Four positions expire on December 31, 2016. Colin McLain, Henry Kobik, Carol Coulbourn and Ethel Deitz. With the passing of long time member Dot Bass, it leaves her unexpired term to be filled.

The recommendation of the Historical Advisory Committee would be to reappoint Colin McLain, Henry Kobik and Carol Coulbourn.

Miss Deitz has been an excellent member, however, she is out west working on an Indian Reservation and is unsure when or if she will be returning. It would be our recommendation that another local interested local resident be appointed to fill that position. Should she return we could appoint her to the next opening.

The computer system in the History Center is outdated no longer can accept or send e-mails. Perhaps Santa could bring up an updated computer system for 2017 to the History Center.

Request for security lighting at the back of the Railroad Station due to vandalism to the Station and the small Railroad Crossing shack at the back of the building. Arrangements have been made to have the Crossing shack restored by a volunteer railroad buff.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Coulbourn