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VOL. V, ISSUE 7—FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

Frankford Inferno

By Emma Hohenstein

The fire Saturday morning, February 13th, began in Joe's Auto Body on Griscom Street. Joe West, a lifelong Frankford resident and business owner, left his garage to make himself a cup of coffee and when he returned everything had gone up in flames. "Just like that," he snaps his fingers.



Photo by Joe Menkevich

Within two hours, the fire had spread throughout the block, overcoming a few row homes, apartments, and store fronts on Frankford Avenue, Orthodox Street, and Griscom Street.



Photo by Joe Menkevich

At 1 pm the doors of Frankford Friends School opened, thanks to volunteers from the Quaker Meeting, Frankford Friends Meeting. The gym, initially serving as a gathering location for neighbors in need of coffee or a bathroom, began filling with first responders and Red Cross volunteers.

Throughout the afternoon, families, some with children in pajama pants and puppies in their arms, some shocked into silence with tears of sadness and smoke in their eyes, filtered through the building. Residents and volunteers alike looked through the glass-tile walls in amazement at the sheets of ice forming over front porches, flame-scorched windows, and fire fighters.

The Red Cross emergency responders worked tirelessly to help the ten displaced families into safe and warm spaces for the evening. Thanks to the kindness of Leandro's Pizza on Frankford Avenue, four hot pizzas were delivered for the families and responders, some of whom had worked for 6 or 7 hours without rest.

Numerous television crews, frightened neighbors, and political officials large and small came in and out throughout the afternoon. State Representative Jason Dawkins and Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez stopped in to ensure everyone was warm and well fed, as well as 23rd Ward Leader Danny Savage. Even Mayor Jim Kinney stopped in to shake the hands of volunteers and offer his sincere condolences to those in need.

"I keep wanting to pinch myself, like it's all a dream," one resident said solemnly. "I think I'm in denial right now, like it's all going to



Photo by Emma Hohenstein

hit us tonight when we go to sleep." Behind her, the sun was setting into a striking red and orange sky. The blooms of smoke seemed to have dwindled for a moment.

But as the temperatures dropped and the coffee slowly ran out, pillars of gray smoke began billowing from what looked to be Frankford Avenue. The corner of Griscom and Orthodox Streets was blocked off with police tape and fire en-



Photo by Joe Menkevich

gines still spewing ice cold water. Rumors passed around the gym in muffled, sorrowful voices that the fire had consumed numerous storefronts along Frankford Avenue as well as the apartments above.

Night fell and families began moving on, locating friends and family



Photo by Emma Hohenstein

to spend the night with, or taking cabs to their Red Cross appointed housing. As the last family helped their dogs into the backseat of their car and the lights in Frankford

Friends clicked off, the ever present red and blue strobes could be seen down every side street. Office of Emergency Management workers stood by to direct hungry, cold, and tired police officers to the Frankford Library which has graciously agreed to stay open for 24 hours.

At 8 pm, when this reporter left the scene, the embers and small squalls of flames were still being battled. Even now, 12 hours after the initial blaze, sirens and flashing lights can be noted from blocks away. Thankfully, residents are safe and comfortable for the night. But the fight continues in the hands of the hard-working Philadelphia Fire Department and Police Department.

Frankford Friends Meeting and the volunteers at the scene this afternoon asked to make public the invitation for all who were affected, who wish to help, or who seek the support of community to attend Quaker Meeting for Worship at 10:30 am Sunday morning at 1500



Photo by Emma Hohenstein

Orthodox Street. A collection for displaced families will be taken through the Meeting and those interested can send questions or comments to frankfordmeeting@gmail.com or (215) 533-5368 with attention to Frankford Friends Meeting.

Civics, PSA

Frankford Civic

The Frankford Civic Association met on February 4th with about 15 residents attending. People were concerned about the recent shootings as Pete Specos updated the group on the incident outside of Sugar and Spice at Frankford and Foulkrod. The owner of that store has excellent video coverage of the event and the police have taken it in for evidence.

Veronica Daniel and Barbara Pip-pet expressed an interest in doing something to beautify the neighborhood. The positive effect of group efforts like that are well documented. Someone will contact Philadelphia More Beautiful for information.

Representatives from Senator Tartaglione's office offered to provide support. Tax rebate and LIHEAP assistance is also available at Senator Tartaglione's office for those who need it. They also have recycling bins available.

Residents from Stiles Street are interested in participating in the Town Watch Safe Corridors program.

Specos also noted that the next PSA1 meeting will be held in Bridesburg at the recreation center on Richmond Street on February 25th. This is a temporary move to make it easier for Bridesburg residents to meet the police and participate in the process.

The next Frankford Civic meeting will be held on March 3rd at 7 PM at St. Mark's Church at 4442 Frankford Avenue.

PSA1

Officer Kennelly lead the 15th police District PSA1 meeting on January 28th at Aria Hospital with about 30 residents attending.

He reported that an individual was arrested in connection with the recent string of Northwood burglaries on January 7th and since that time similar burglaries have not been a problem.

This is not to be confused with the "Theft from Vehicles" which is another crime category. The picture below is of one that occurred last weekend in Northwood. Lock your car doors. Don't leave any valuables or anything that this crook thinks may be valuable, in plain sight.

No arrest has been made yet in the homicide that started off the new year in Frankford on the 4600 block of Penn Street.

Cell phone thefts are a major problem says Officer Kennelly. Don't be an easy target. When you are out in public, holding your cell phone and talking makes it too easy for a thief to grab it and run. Tell your kids to keep them in their pocket when out in public.

The truck parking problem around Harding Middle School continues. There are no truck parking signs on Ditman Street which are being ignored. Advice from Kat Hardy of Senator Tartaglione's office:

A lot of phone calls about the tractor trailer parking on Ditman Street at the corner under "no trucking parking anytime" post. We will be working on it at the office all day but we need everyone to call 911 when you see a violation. Do not call the 15th, we were told to call 911. They will send an officer out to ticket the truck. The more calls, the sooner we can get this tractor trailer towed. That's how it works. It's not safe for the kids crossing the street trying to get to Harding school and it's just against the law. We (Frankford) have to do our part. We asked for no tractor trailer parking on that street, we got it, now let's all try to make it hap-

pen. All it takes is for one tractor trailer to start. Before we know it they are lined up again.

Cars parking on the sidewalk by the used car dealers on Torresdale Avenue between Church and Margaret has been going on for years. It creates a danger for pedestrians who have to walk in the street to get by. Officer Kennelly will refer it to Roll Call.

Ronald Ryan of Town Watch Integrated Services discussed town watch and the benefits of implementing that program in Frankford. Officer Staten talked about the Philly Cheers program which is being held at Aria Hospital again this year with the first session on February 27th. This is a good program for kids aged 8 to 17. It is held on Saturdays from 9 AM to noon with breakfast and lunch served free of charge.

The next meeting of the 15th District PSA1 will be held on February 25th at 7 PM at the Bridesburg Recreation Center at 4625 Richmond Street.

Northwood Civic

Joe Krause, President of the Northwood Civic Association told residents attending the meeting on February 16th that The Bridge, located on Adams Avenue, sent out a brief email to the effect that they would be seeking community support to expand the facility to accommodate an additional 35 residents. They propose to use temporary modular units at first but will eventually want to build a permanent expansion. In 2011 there was a great controversy over approval for the move of the Bridge into Northwood.

The Bridge, from their web site: *The Bridge is a nonprofit behavioral health treatment and youth opportunity program for adolescents and their families seeking to overcome substance abuse,*

mental health issues, truancy and other challenges. The Bridge includes a comprehensive continuum of services, accredited by the Joint Commission. The Bridges' services include a residential substance abuse treatment program for 38 adolescent males, the only one in Philadelphia; an outpatient treatment program for people of all ages; a licensed private school; and the E³Center West in West Philadelphia that helps out-of-school youth and youth returning from juvenile justice placements develop academic, vocational, and life skills. Since 1971, the Bridge has become a leader in the treatment of high-risk youth by helping more than 15,000 adolescents and families in the Philadelphia region.

Notice to residents will be given by the Civic when the Bridge makes a formal presentation so that as interested residents may attend the meeting.

Terri Heiser updated the group on the Castor Avenue project. In the early Spring we should see work start. In addition, Heiser is now taking a look at the problem of truck traffic at the intersection of Adams and Ramona.

Work at the old K Mart is being done. Permits for interior work and new signage do not disclose the names of any future tenants.

Tom McAvoy reports that the No Truck Parking signs are up and that means no 18-wheelers may be parked at any time wherever there is one of those signs. That includes in front of Frankford High School on the weekends. You should call 911 to have them ticketed.

Several residents have reported men living out of their cars in the area of the String Theory School. That is a potential problem and you should report it to 911.

Joe Krause is scheduled to attend a
(Continued on page 5)

Coming Up in Frankford

PSA1 Meeting - Thu, February 25, 7pm – 8pm, Bridesburg Recreation Center, 4601 Richmond St,

Extended Time – with our Digital Resource Specialist - Tue, March 1, 10am – 12pm
Frankford Branch, 4634 Frankford Ave. Do you need more time on a computer to type a paper, write e-mails, search for and apply for jobs? Join us every first Tuesday for extended, two-hour computer sessions. Our Digital Resource Specialist will be available at this time to answer your computer questions. Space will be limited.

Letter to My Father Literacy Workshops for teens - Tue, March 1, 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Frankford Library, Frankford Avenue Tina Smith Brown, creator of Letter2myFather, believes that relationship (or lack of relationship) with our fathers fundamentally impacts the direction of our lives. She also believes that any resulting misdirection can be effectively redirected through careful, critical and conscientious examination of self in light of that relation-

ship. Through her very mobile, go-anywhere literary workshops she lays a foundation for teens to effectively begin the process of self-examination that leads to healing and celebration! Tuesdays, March 1 & 8, 2016

Wii for kids with Vince - Wed, March 2, 4:30pm – 5:30pm, Frankford Branch, 4634 Frankford Ave, Come play your favorite Wii games with Mr. Vince. For school-aged kids. Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. | January 6, 13, 20 & 27 February 3, 10, 17 & 24 March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Frankford Civic Association Meeting - Thu, March 3, 7pm – 8pm, St Mark's Church Frankford, 4442 Frankford Avenue

Grand Army of the Republic Museum Open House - Sun, March 6, 12pm – 5pm
4278 Griscom Street Presentation at 1:30 PM: John Nagy – Civil War Spies

SEPTA Key Picture ID - Tuesday, Mar 8, 2016, Peter Bressi

Northeast Senior Center, 4744 Frankford Ave. Seniors are invited to come in to have your picture taken for your new SEPTA ID that is necessary to use to ride free when the SEPTA Key systems starts up this year. It will save you from having to go downtown to get one.

Breast Cancer Screening - Thursday, Mar 10, 2016, Rep. Jason Dawkins office, 4915 Frankford Avenue

Teen Third Tuesday - Tue, March 15, 4:30pm – 5:30pm, Frankford Branch, 4634 Frankford Ave. - games and fun for Teens Only. Snacks will be provided. 3rd Tuesday of the month | 4:30 p.m. January 19, February 16 & March 15

Northwood Civic Association Meeting - Tue, March 15, 7pm – 8pm
St. James Lutheran Church, at Castor Avenue and Pratt Street.

Frankford Avenue Streetscaping Project Task Force Meeting 2 - Thu, March 17, 6:30pm – 7:30pm,

Second Baptist Church (1801 Meadow Street) - This will be an evening meeting to accommodate the schedules of more community residents. At this meeting, the design team from the Community Design Collaborative will be sharing their preliminary ideas in order to get feedback from community stakeholders.

PSA1 Meeting - Thu, March 24, 7pm – 8pm, Aria Hospital, 4900 Frankford Ave.

Senior Breakfast - Tue, March 29, 8am – 10am, Aria Health, Frankford - 2nd floor cafeteria - Aria will provide our community seniors with monthly, insightful tips and information on issues that are directly affecting you and your health. Breakfast will be provided free of charge. To reserve your seat call 1-877-808-2742 and then press 2.

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Services at
Second Baptist Church of Frankford
Rev. Darrell R. Bradsbery, Pastor
1801 Meadow Street

Wednesday Prayer Service/Bible Class 7:00 PM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:45 AM
Third Sunday Baptism
Fourth Sunday Communion

It's Time For Church

Christ Fellowship Christian Church
Pastor Ronald W. Gayle Sr
1639 Harrison St. Phila Pa. 19124

Sunday Worship @ 1045 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study @ 6:00 P.M.

1st Sunday Communion
For God So Loved The World.

John 3:16

Services at
St. James Lutheran Church
Castor Ave. at Pratt St.

Sundays

Contemporary Service at 10:00 a.m.

Nursery and Sunday School are offered for kids during service.

Services at
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
4442 Frankford Ave.

8:30AM SIMPLE AND SHORT WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:00am
10:00AM Main WORSHIP SERVICE
11:30AM WORSHIP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Wednesday 10:30AM - NOON an ecumenical hymn sing and sit down meal

Services at
Faith Assembly of God
1926 Margaret St

Sunday 11 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

Friday 7:30 P.M.

About the Frankford Gazette

Keep the Faith in Frankford publishes the Frankford Gazette. This is a print edition of some of the articles available online. We Cover the Frankford neighborhood in Philadelphia. Go to www.frankfordgazette.com to get full details.

Editor: Bob Smiley; Associate Editor: Pat Smiley, Veterans Affairs: Richard W. Johnson, IT Director: Jim Smiley, Printing by Health Partners Plans.

You can receive Frankford/Northwood news and event information by text message sent directly to your cell phone. Text the word JOIN to sms+659@telefo.com. Interested in writing for Frankford's community newspaper? Email contrib@frankfordgazette.com or call (215) 847-5506. Want your event on the community calendar? Email events@frankfordgazette.com or call (215) 847-5506. Publication date is the 20th of each month. Events and ads are due by the 14th.

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By Richard W. Johnson

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Name	Branch	Name	Branch		
<p>Alphonso Whitmore, Army Leonard Whitmore, Army Calvin Wilkerson, Army John E. Wilkerson, Army Melvin Wilkerson, Army Karl Wilkinson, Navy Allen Williams, Army Charles Williams, Army Felicia Williams*, Navy Jessie Williams*, Navy Lawrence Williams, Marines Melvin Williams, Army Melvin Williams, Army Antonio Wilson, Army Lloyd C. Wilson**, Army Maxwell J. Wright, Air Force Sylvester E. Wright, Navy Barry E. Young , Army Walter Young Jr., Army John R. Abel Jr., Marines</p>		<p>Robert H. Miller Veteran of the Month</p> 		<p>Stanley Adams, Marines Tillman Avery*, Navy Eugene Baldwin Jr.*, Air Force Harry L. Barr*, Army Robert Barrett*, Army John Bates*, Marines Lennan Bates*, Marines Tom Barland, Army Tyrik Bell, Marines Voci Bennett, Army James Berry*, Army John Berry, Army Kenny Berry*, Army William Berry*, Army Bill Beverly, Army Bernadette Birch, Army James Birch*, Army Roger Birch*, Navy Tony Birch, Army John Blackiston*, Marines</p>	

Robert H. Miller was born on September 27th, 1934 in the city of Philadelphia. Bobby, as he is known, was educated in the Philadelphia school system, attending such schools as Smedley Grade School, Harding Jr. High School and Northeast High School at 8th and Lehigh.

Bobby also went to Community College for Social and Mental Health courses. While in High School he loved track

and field and football. Bobby, at a young age, joined the Lord's army and became a member of the Second Baptist Church of Frankford.

Robert was drafted into the U. S. Army during the Korean War era. He did his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He also trained at Fort Bliss where he was permanently stationed.

While he served, Robert received various medals and awards and was promoted to the rank of Specialist E-5, equivalent to sergeant. He served his time and was honorably discharged.

Robert worked in a dry cleaning business and then became self employed in various businesses such as a limo business, arcades and grocery store operator in the Frankford section of Philadelphia.

Robert loves his children Darell, Cornell, Roselyn, Derrick and Robert. He has been active in community projects and a member of American Legion Post 224, the Boys and Girls Club and PAL. He loves Darts and various sports and loves traveling and going to flea markets.

Robert - Thank you for your service.

*Veteran is deceased

Frankford's Zaire Anderson (Bam) Wears a Super Bowl Ring

By Bob Smiley and Saleem Lewis

Zaire Anderson, Bam to his closest friends, grew up in Frankford around Harrison and Tackawanna Sts. and played first for the Frankford Chargers. As Saleem Lewis, his friend from that time tells the story:

"Me, another friend, Khason Evens, and Zaire went to play for the City Youth Association Gators. We were the only Frankford

where he was named a first-team All-Philadelphia Public League selection in his senior year. He started his college football career at Riverside (Calif.) City College. He then went on to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and started in 18-of-28 games in three seasons. He earned his degree in Child, Youth and Family sciences in 2014 and played his senior season as a graduate student at Nebraska.



Zaire Anderson from his Facebook page

guy on a team where all the players came from a different part of the city. A lot of people got on us about that, about going and not finishing our Little League football career with our home team, the Chargers. LOL and we never got a chance to beat the Chargers. In his last year with the Gators, Zaire won best offensive player of the year".

Anderson joined the Denver Broncos as a college free agent on May 5, 2015. He was waived on September 5th but assigned to the practice squad the next day and would be on the sidelines at Super Bowl 50. Looks like all that time helping the team to practice worked out pretty well.

He is Frankford through and through.

Zaire played at Frankford High



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Coach Terrence Scales helps out Hector Delgado at McIlvain playground practice session. They play at Frankford High School.

St. Joachim Convent Sold to Religious Order

By Bob Smiley

Capuchin Franciscan Friars will use the property for their provincial postulancy program.

Father Thomas Higgins, Pastor of Holy Innocents Parish in Juniata Park, announced last Sunday that the former St. Joachim convent of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at Church and Penn Streets, had been sold to the Capuchins.

They will relocate the Padre Pio Friary from its present location in West Philadelphia to here in Frankford over the next few months as renovations to the building are accomplished.

Community concern about the future reuse of this building has been growing as it sat idle and was a target for vandalism. The likelihood that it might have become a recovery or boarding house was a possibility. The Capuchins are a good fit for the community and should be good neighbors. Welcome to Frankford, Brothers!



St. Joachim Convent, 1501-25 Church Street

Crime Report 15th District PSA1 January 2016

By Bob Smiley

Thanks to OpenDataPhilly, we have the stats for January for PSA1 which includes, Bridesburg and Frankford/Northwood.

Compared to the past 2 years, crime is slowly inching downward.

Not sure I should count that category of recovered stolen vehicles. If its reported stolen somewhere and then reported recovered later, it gets counted again.

	Jan-14	Jan-15	Jan-16
Aggravated Assault Firearm	11	12	12
Aggravated Assault No Firearm	14	11	14
Burglary Non Residential	2	5	6
Burglary Residential	25	15	17
Homicide	0	1	1
Homicide - gross negligence	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Recovery	23	15	17
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	16	9
Rape	nr	4	2
Robbery Firearm	11	12	12
Robbery no Firearm	11	17	7
Theft	50	36	37
Theft from Vehicle	23	19	19
Total	174	163	153
days	31	31	31
Average per day	5.6	5.3	4.9

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Sunday, April
11:30 a.m. - 2
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Frankford Business and Professional Association February Meeting

By Bob Smiley

At the first meeting of the FBPA on February 16th, President Diane Richardson kicked off the program with introductions of participants around the table.

Mary Livingston, President of SCORE, made a presentation of the mentoring services and workshops available from their program. Discussion turned into suggestions for what workshops would be of interest to members and future offerings will be announced as they become available. Suggested workshops were succession planning, working with the government and finances.

Diana Lu presented on behalf of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses which offers a highly regarded small business boot camp. Qualified participants, once accepted, are on scholarship but are required to spend a great deal of time dedicated to the program. Minimum requirements for the business is that it have revenue of at least \$150,000 annually and have at least 4 employees.

News at the meeting from Kim Washington of the Frankford CDC and State Representative Jason Dawkins:

With a recent market study in hand, the CDC will work with SEPTA to see what opportunities lie in the area of the Frankford and Arrott Transportation centers for new businesses.

SEPTA will be issuing an RFP for developers to build some new stores along the Avenue in Front of the new building that is rising on the lot between Griscom and Frankford Avenue. There will also be a location on the lot across the street between Griscom and Penn. The recent fire has essentially destroyed 12 businesses in the area of the Arrott Transportation center. That has created vacancies which will need to be filled in the newly rebuilt structures.

Representative Dawkins has talked with Governor Wolf about the fire and has been assured that every effort will be made to connect Frankford with whatever funding sources are available. Dawkins did point out that it will take some time

to sort out who pays for what in the demo and clearing of the land. The land bank might have to become involved.

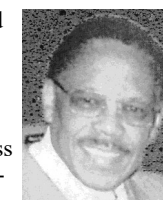
There will be a SEPTA picture event for seniors at the Peter Bressi Senior Center (4744 Frankford Avenue) on March 8th. This will allow seniors to get their SEPTA photo ID in Frankford rather than having to go down to SEPTA headquarters on Market Street. The new ID will be required for use on the new SEPTA

key system later this year.

A free breast cancer screening will be available at Dawkins office (4915 Frankford Ave.) on March 10th.

The next FBPA meeting will be in April at a date and time to be announced.

William O. Miller passed away on December 23rd of 2015. He was the son of the late Joseph and Ethel.

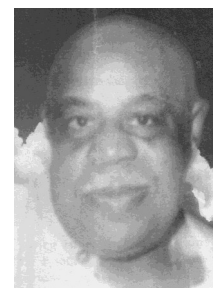


He attended Henry Elementary, Harding Junior High and Frankford High School graduating in 1952. He then went on to Temple University School of Business and received a bachelor's degree in business and public administration. He earned a master's degree in secondary urban education from Antioch College.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Elizabeth, Mildred, Clarence, Eva and Lawrence.

He is survived by his wife Terri, son, William C. Miller Jr., daughter, Wanda Curry and a grand-daughter Brielle Nicole Miller

Robert Leonard Barrett passed away on February 2nd of this year. He was the oldest of six children of the late Robert Wilson and Helen Dorthea Barrett.



He held many positions over the years. Among them were with the Evans Umbrella Company, Baldwin Dairy, S. W. Smith Moving and the Criminal Justice Center of Philadelphia until he retired at 65.

He was married to the late Sandra Johnson and was the father of the late Marlene Denise, Robert Darnell, Barbara Ann and Brenda Joyce. There are 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

State Representative Jason Dawkins 179th Legislative District



District Office
4915 Frankford Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19124

Office Hours
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Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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(215) 744-7906 (fax)

Satellite Offices:

Olney Free Library
(5th St and Tabor Rd)
5501 N. 5th Street
Fridays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Great Awakenings Café
(Cheltenham and Horrocks)
1466 E. Cheltenham Avenue
Tuesday and Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

(Continued from page 2)

Conservatorship hearing to support the acquisition of 1301 Wakeling Street by a non profit organization that will then rehab it and sell it as a single family residence.

One resident complained about the ever growing number of dumpsters on Frankford High School property and how they are block the sidewalk. Joe Krause will talk to the dumpster company and the school about cleaning up the mess.

The next Northwood Civic Association meeting will be held on March 15th at 7 PM at St. James Lutheran Church at Pratt Street and Castor Avenue.