



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Franklin County Senior Center Enhancements**

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During their public meeting today, the Franklin County Commissioners reviewed current enhancements and future plans to improve Senior Center programming to adults 60 and older. The ultimate goal of these enhancements is to ensure access to all Franklin County senior citizens.

Core services traditionally offered throughout Franklin County Senior Activity Centers include lunch time meals as well as social, recreational and educational programs, information and referral for aging services and caregivers, and special events.

Planned enhancements include extending the center experience and programming beyond the existing senior center walls. The main concepts include expanding current programming in a variety of community locations as well as the traditional centers, increasing hours to meet the changing needs of younger seniors, and redesigning, possibly relocating, current locations. Data including consumer surveys, current attendance records, age distribution of participants and the current population distribution throughout the county by age provided through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping were all important factors when developing the new concepts.

The Tuscarora Senior Center is the flagship project that made many of these concepts trending nationally a reality here in Franklin County. With a grant from the state, the Tuscarora Senior Center was renovated and updated to a Senior Enrichment Center that provides more programs and extended hours. Even early figures illustrate that the concepts are working, supported by the fact that since the completion of the renovations in June, new participation has continued to grow at a steady pace. The center gained 16 new participants between October 2014 and March 2015. With an emphasis on partnerships in programming, increased health and wellness programs, and community engagement, the Enrichment Center has preserved traditional services at the center while at the same time utilizing new resources to provide additional programs and services to a more diverse population of seniors.

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For additional information on Franklin County visit www.franklincountypa.gov.

With the implementation of the new Tuscarora Enrichment Center in Mercersburg complete, current focus is on enhancing services and access in and around the Fort Loudon Senior Activity Center. Proposed changes include continued site-based services on a part-time basis at the current location and providing additional services throughout the larger community. All senior residents of Franklin County are welcome and encouraged to visit any center within the County.

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