

franc talk



October 2015

Township Looks To 2016 And Beyond

As 2015 starts to draw to a close, the kids are back to school, the holiday season is approaching - and it is the perfect time to reflect on this past year, while taking a look ahead to 2016 and beyond.

While 2015 has seen much change, many things have remained the same. Franconia remains a wonderful community in which to live and raise a family. The Township has been recognized as one of the safest communities in Pennsylvania and has one of the lowest tax rates

in all of Montgomery County. Further, Franconia continues to be the county leader in open space preservation and continued commitment to the environment.

As the Township looks forward to 2016, there is more good news. With positive results from a 2015 financial audit, Township officials have prepared a five-year budget forecast that is projecting budgetary surpluses each year. The Township has refinanced old debt at more favorable rates, worked

hard to contain pension and healthcare costs, and thoroughly reexamined every aspect of Township operations to gain new efficiencies. From a financial perspective, the Township is positioned solidly to meet the challenges of the future and is looking to grow upon that strength to continue to provide outstanding services for the residents of the Township for years to come.

As the Township Supervisors and staff continue to plan the 2016 budget, they will continue to prioritize Franconia's status as an environmental leader. In the coming months, you will be learning more about the Township's stormwater management plans and how they will benefit our environment.

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road
Telford, PA 18969-2205
215-723-1137
www.franconiatownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Grey R. Godshall, Chairman
David B. Fazio, First Vice Chairman
Robert H. Nice, Second Vice Chairman
Curtis N. Kratz, Supervisor
Steven P. Barndt, Supervisor

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jon A. Hammer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration 215-723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1
Joseph Kozeniewski, Chief
Stephen Rinker, Sergeant/Patrol
George H. Moyer III, Sergeant/Detective Division

BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

215-723-1137
Roger M. Koffel,
Code Enforcement Director
Jerry Rittenhouse, Building
Inspector/Code Enforcement Director

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

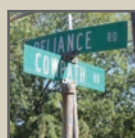
215-723-1153
Paul R. Nice, Public Works Director

Total Millage



Franconia's tax rates have remained much lower than those of surrounding, comparable municipalities.

IN THIS ISSUE



3 Traffic Signal Upgrade



5 Park & Rec Celebrates Summer



October 2015

franc talk

Recycling is Required in Township

Franconia Township requires that residents, commercial establishments and non-residential establishments recycle all recyclable materials. Commonly recycled materials include:

- Paper – newspaper, office/copy paper, glossy paper, color paper, cardboard, junk mail, phone books, cereal/cracker boxes
- Plastic – bottles and jugs No. 1-7
- Glass – clear, green and brown containers
- Metal – aluminum, steel, tin, and bimetal cans and containers

You should check with your hauler for a complete list of accepted recyclable materials.

Leaf Collection Bags Available At Township Building

Private municipal waste haulers operating within the Township are required to offer a curbside leaf collection to residents. As required by Ordinance #359, private municipal waste collectors must conduct the pick-up of leaf waste in accordance with the regulations of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

Free biodegradable leaf bags are available for Franconia Township residents at the administration building located at 671 Allentown Road from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information on the leaf collection program and a list of scheduled pick-up dates please visit the Township's website.

Interesting Facts about Glass Recycling

- Glass almost never wears out – it can be recycled forever. It takes approximately one million years for a glass bottle to break down at the landfill
- Bottles and jars made from glass are 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without loss of quality.
- We save over a ton of resources for every ton of glass recycled -- 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar.
- Most bottles and jars contain at least 25% recycled glass.
- In 2011, 34% of all glass containers were recycled.
- Approximately 8 out of 10 households recycle, and of those that do, 82% recycle glass bottles and jars.
- An estimated 80% of recovered glass containers are made into new glass bottles, and it can happen quickly. A glass container can go from a recycling bin to a store shelf in as little as 30 days.
- The use of recycled glass is more environmentally friendly than new. Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours, or power a television for 20 minutes.
- For every six tons of recycled container glass used in the manufacturing process, one ton of carbon dioxide creation is avoided.
- There are 48 glass manufacturing plants operating in 22 states. On average, a typical glass processing facility can handle 20 tons of color-sorted glass per hour.
- About 39% of beer and soft drink bottles were recovered for recycling in 2009, according to the U.S. EPA. Also recovered were about 18.1% of wine and liquor bottles as well as almost 18% of food jars. In total, 31.1% of all glass containers were recycled.

Franconia Township is a member of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission (NMCRC). For more information on recycling, go to the NMCRC website at www.northmontcorecycle.com.



Residents should visit the Township Building for free leaf collection bags.



October 2015

franc talk

Traffic Signal Upgrade Coming To Intersection

On September 21, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution # 15-25-21-09. This was a Resolution authorizing the Township to submit an application for a traffic signal upgrade to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The signal upgrade will take place at the intersection of Cowpath Road and Reliance Road. A four-way stop will be added to the intersection along with a dual flashing red light. In 2014, the Township requested a traffic study be performed at the intersection to see if improvements were warranted. The traffic study was performed and the intersection was approved for the upgrades noted above. The improvements are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2015.



A four-way stop sign and dual flashing red light will be added at the intersection of Cowpath and Reliance roads.

Support The Township By Volunteering

Residents of Franconia Township that have an interest in serving on a committee or other volunteer commission should submit a volunteer application form to the Township Manager.

The Township retains applications for a two-year period to fill vacancies as they occur. The Township relies on volunteer residents to be part of the legislative committees that assist the Board of Supervisors in its decision making process. Support your Township by being a volunteer!

Stormwater Ordinance Protects Environment

Any illicit discharge as defined in the Franconia Township Stormwater Ordinance is a violation of the code, and those who dump will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine.





Land Development Projects Moving Forward

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- Paragon Alliance Group: Wisner Properties-300 Harleysville Pike: parking lot expansion
- 674 Souder Road Land Development: JC McGinn-674 Souder Rd.; industrial building expansion
- Gotwals Minor Lot Line Adjustment: Brent & Julia Gotwals; Rising Sun Rd.; lot line adjustment
- Shoemaker Land Development: Harry Shoemaker-302 Leidy Rd.; industrial expansion
- Robert Landes Lot Line Adjustment: Robert Landes-235 W. Reliance Rd; lot line adjustment
- Robert P. Martin Subdivision: Robert Martin-766 Indian Creek Rd.; 2-lot residential subdivision
- Lincoln Woods Amended Phase 1 Land Development- THP- Kulp Road; 29 of 82 lot residential development
- Schuler Minor Subdivision- Gary Schuler-35 Church Rd.; 2-lot residential subdivision

The following land developments/subdivisions are currently under review by the Planning Commission:

- Kapusta Lot Line Adjustment-935 Landis Road; 3-lot residential
- Bergey's Realty Company Minor Subdivision-461 Homestead Avenue; 2-lot residential subdivision



Work continues at the Vistas residential development at Crestwood Drive and Hunsicker Road.

The future home of Harleysville Rental takes shape.



Park and Recreation Celebrates Great Summer

The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board (PRB) wrapped up another summer season. This year, the PRB partnered with Representative Robert Godshall and held the 24th Annual Fishing Derby. Ashleen Gerber and Caleb Christensen took home top honors in the 9-12 age group. Brayden Schnabel took home first place in the 8 and under age group.

The annual concert in the park was held in July and featured the Mango Men. The PRB held a small ribbon cutting ceremony to recognize the newly completed rain garden. The finishing touches were added with the installation of the new sign. The PRB also provided informational brochures explaining what rain gardens are, how they function, and how they can benefit a property owner and the park. The PRB also offered numerous youth tennis camps throughout the summer with instruction from Monica Bach.



State Representative Robert Godshall and the winners of the 24th Annual Fishing Derby.



The Mango Men entertained during Park and Recreation's annual summer concert.



October 2015

franc talk

Better Maintenance Means Better Roads for Franconia

One of the reasons Franconia Township is such a wonderful community is its constant maintenance of Township roads. Whether it's filling potholes in the spring, paving a road in the summer or snow plowing in the winter, the Township's Public Works Department takes great pride in maintaining our roads.

The Township works closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) throughout the year to ensure the safety of our roadways. In fact, some of the roads within Franconia are maintained by PennDOT and some by the Township.

Currently, PennDOT has a 'turn back' program in which it encourages local municipalities to assume responsibilities for the maintenance of state-owned roadways. PennDOT will 'turn back' that state-owned road to the local municipality for maintenance, snow removal, etc. For taking over the roadway, the Township will receive additional funding from PennDOT in its annual liquid fuels allotment.

Franconia has been a part of this program since 1974. At that time, the Township took back Church Road and Fourth Street in the Telford area to rebuild the existing deteriorating roadways and to install proper drainage.

The Township also took back a section of Lower Road

in order to make traffic improvements brought on by construction of the Souderton Area High School. In 2011, Elroy Road was realigned, stop signs added, drainage installed all as a result of the program.

The most recent turn back agreement came as a part of the design and build of the Cowpath and Broad Street intersection. The Township agreed to take ownership of the new construction and all PennDOT maintained roads leading up to that project as incentive for PennDOT to allocate funding for the completion of the new intersection.

Franconia Township is now responsible for Lower Road from Allentown Road to, and including, Broad Street up to the Borough Line. We have also taken back Cowpath Road from Route 113 to, and including, Green Street to the Borough Line.

The Township Public Works Department will be working on various improvements to each of these roadways over the next 3 years. Work will start with some much needed storm drainage on Cowpath near Route 113 and a section of curbing will be completed near the Reliance Road intersection, which will include road widening and base repair in preparation for paving in 2016.



Public Works crews take pride in maintaining Franconia's roads.



October 2015

franc talk

Coffee With A Cop A Success

The Franconia Township Police Department hosted its first "Coffee with a Cop" event on September 9. The event took place between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Franconia Cafe on Allentown Road. Officer Dave Klepfer greeted customers for two hours to discuss all types of police-related topics.

Coffee with a Cop is another outreach project that the police have undertaken in order to provide better communications with residents in a relaxed atmosphere. The project is one of the recommended practices that is prescribed by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing.

The officers are available to hear concerns, discuss public safety issues and answer questions about

the law enforcement profession. Officers are also a conduit to and for the Township staff so that concerns can be addressed by the proper person or department.

Several other mornings to share a cup of coffee and a good story with your police officers are being planned. The dates and locations will be announced in the Township's email newsletter and local media. Check often at the Police Department's Facebook page as well as the Department's website at www.franconiapolice.org.

FRANCONIA WAS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE SAFEST COMMUNITIES IN ALL OF PENNSYLVANIA. BASED ON RECENT FBI STATISTICS AVAILABLE, MOVOTO REAL ESTATE'S ANNUAL 'SAFEST PLACES IN PENNSYLVANIA' LIST RANKS FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP AS THE 15TH SAFEST AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA.





FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road
Telford, PA 18969-2205

PSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #117
SOUTHEASTERN PA
19399

www.franconiatownship.org

Remember To Vote On Election Day

Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on Tuesday, November 3.

Listed below are the polling places within Franconia Township. If you are unsure at which polling location you should be voting or you would like additional information pertaining to the election, please contact Voter's Registration at 610-278-3280.

Polling Places:

Precinct 1	Franconia Township Building 671 Allentown Road, Franconia
Precinct 2	Christ Reformed Church Church & Cowpath Roads, Telford
Precinct 3	Christ Reformed Church Church & Cowpath Roads, Telford
Precinct 4	Franconia Township Building 671 Allentown Road, Franconia
Precinct 5	Immanuel Leidy's Church 276 W. Cherry Lane, Souderton
Precinct 6	Peter Becker Community 800 Maple Avenue, Harleysville
Precinct 7	Peter Becker Community 800 Maple Avenue, Harleysville
Precinct 8	Immanuel Leidy's Church 276 W. Cherry Lane, Souderton



Sign Up For The Township's Email Newsletter

The Township plans to start an email newsletter to help improve communication. All you need to do to receive the newsletter is visit the Township's website at www.franconiatownship.org and click on the "Sign up for Email Notification" link. Your address will only be used for the Township's email newsletters.