

# franc talk



Fall 2018

## Tips To Control The Spotted Lanternfly

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive planthopper (type of insect) that is native to Southeast Asia. This insect was first spotted in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014, and its control has become a growing concern due to the damage it can cause to forests and crops.



The Tree of Heaven is the main host of the SLF, but they can be drawn to any tree with a smooth surface. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has partnered with Penn State Extension, and they have made suggestions for homeowners to be proactive in the fight against SLFs in the

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## A Message From The Township Manager

Franconia is a very desirable place to live, in large part because of its preserved open space, low municipal tax rate, outstanding park system, and consistently being ranked as one of the safest communities in Pennsylvania.

We took steps in 2018 to continue to preserve open space by updating our Open Space Plan, and adding a new recreation plan – that includes both active and passive recreation. These plans include new trail systems, and identifying parcels to preserve from future development. Information on our

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### FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road  
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www.franconiatownship.org

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Jon A. Hammer

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Michael L. Martin, Chief  
George H. Moyer III, Sergeant/Detective Division

### BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

215-723-1137  
Roger M. Koffel,  
Code Enforcement Director  
Jerry Rittenhouse, Building  
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### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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



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## A Message from the Township Manager (cont. from page 1)

Open Space and Recreation Plans can be found on the Township website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org).

In 2018, we also welcomed a new Police Chief, Michael Martin. Chief Martin came to us from the Upper Merion Police Department, where he served as a Lieutenant of the Investigations Division, Patrol, and Auxiliary Services. When interviewing prospective Chiefs for the position, a few things became very obvious. First, Franconia is a very desirable community to live and work, as evidenced by the over 40 applications we received for the position from across the country. Second, Franconia has a very good police department with outstanding officers. And lastly, Chief Martin was the right person for the job to lead us into the future. He embraces community policing and is committed to providing outstanding police services for the residents of Franconia Township.



*Township Manager Jon Hammer*

Aside from being recognized as one of the safest communities in Pennsylvania, Franconia Township is also recognized as having among the lowest real estate tax rates in all of Montgomery County. Based on figures provided by Montgomery County, the millage rates for communities in our region are:

Franconia:	1.924
Lower Salford:	2.689
Hatfield Township:	5.221
Souderton Borough:	5.51
Telford Borough:	6.39

We encourage residents to visit our website for additional financial information. We take great pride in putting Township audits on our website and providing complete transparency. And as always, should you ever have any questions about Township services, please feel free to call or stop into the Township Office. We are happy to help!

Jon Hammer  
Township Manager



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## Tips To Control The Spotted Lanternfly (cont. from page 1)

different phases of their life cycle. Their detailed information can be found at <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners>.

SLFs start laying eggs in October through the first couple of frosts. Therefore, the current method of eliminating the SLF involves the scraping of egg masses which have been laid. These egg masses are most often found on trees; however, they can lay eggs on any solid surface such as rocks, fence posts, lawn furniture, and concrete. Removal of egg masses (see photo for example) can be done by scraping the egg mass with a hard tool such as a putty knife or plastic card (like a credit card) into a container or baggie containing rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. This method seems to be the best way to kill the eggs, but they can also be smashed or burned.

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest that can be destructive to agriculture, timber and ornamental industries as well as to the plants in our own back yards. If we work together, we can take steps to reduce the spread of SLFs and the damage they can cause.

## Snow Removal

Winter is coming and with winter comes the chore of snow and ice removal. In spite of the many groans that ensue with the mention of the words snow removal, it is a necessary evil. It is the responsibility of all owners, tenants or occupants of occupied or unoccupied properties to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks surrounding the property within 30 hours after the snow or sleet has ceased to fall. A pathway must be cleared on the sidewalk in the event of snow. The sidewalk must be covered with cinders, sawdust or similar snow and ice control materials in the event of ice and sleet. The pathway should not be less than 30 inches wide and it should be thoroughly cleared of snow or ice. The snow and ice may be piled on the curbside of the sidewalk, but it should not be piled in the gutter or cartway. Do not shovel your snow into the streets because when the plow goes by, it will go back into your driveway. The quick removal of snow from the sidewalks will help eliminate the safety hazards ice and snow can create.

## Franconia Township Police Supporting Autism

Our Police Department is selling Autism Awareness Patches for \$10 each. The proceeds will benefit the SASD Autism Program.

For information, contact the Police Department at 215-723-6777.



## Barefoot Bobby and the Breakers Perform at Annual Concert in the Park

The weather on Wednesday, July 11 provided the perfect evening for Franconia Township's 17th Annual Concert in the Park.

The concert was well attended, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the band, Barefoot Bobby and the Breakers. One attendee said how much they appreciated the way the band interacted with the crowd, and they performed one number with the kids that was entertaining for all! The evening included a Bouncy House and free water ice, and the North Penn Goodwill Truck provided food and beverage for purchase by the attendees.

The Franconia Township Parks and Recreation Board would like to thank the many businesses that sponsored this event and made it a great success, including Univest, Hagey Coach & Tours, Asher's Chocolates, RK&Co., IT Landes, Bergey's Electric, Alderfer Meats/Leidy's, Party Bounce Rentals, Paragon Alliance Group, R.L. Daschbach & Associates and Judge Electric.



## State Approves Plan For Sewering Morwood Area

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has approved the Township's Act 537 Plan for providing public sewer to the Morwood area. The plan has been turned over to Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) to implement.

FSA is in the process of creating a detailed design of the system. Once the design is completed, it will be advertised to go out for bid. The lowest cost, qualified bidder will be awarded the contract to do the installation. We are trying to move quickly so that we can get the sewer main in Morwood Road, since PennDOT plans to do a full repave of that road in 2019.

The planned order of public sewer installation is as follows: Camp Road (completed), Morwood Road, Creamery Road, Hunsicker Road, Crestwood Drive, Keller Creamery Road, Ridgeview Road, and Landis Road. The proposed order of sewer installation may have to be modified, but Morwood Road will be next due to PennDOT's activities. Residents affected by the proposed sewer installation will be receiving more detailed information in the mail.



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## Turnpike Widening Project Continues

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has been working on its Total Reconstruction and Widening Project of the Northeast Extension since 2011. The work of widening the roadway from two lanes in each direction to three lanes began from the Mid-County Interchange (Milepost A20) to Berks Road (Milepost A26) in January 2011 and was completed in October 2014. The next portion of roadway construction from Berks Road (Milepost A26) to the Lansdale Interchange (Milepost 31) began in May 2014 and was substantially completed on August 31, 2017.

The current phase of this Turnpike widening and reconstruction project began earlier this year and runs for a seven-mile stretch of the roadway between Milepost A31 and Milepost A38 in Lower Salford, Franconia and Salford Townships. Obviously, a project of this magnitude within our Township has presented some challenges including the problem of dust and mud control, especially with the widespread rain encountered this year. Any complaints that have come into the Township surrounding this work have been resolved with PennDOT by the Franconia Township Police Department.

Projects such as this can present some inconveniences while taking place, but the eventual benefits of having this improved highway system will be well worth it as has already been seen by the stretches of roadway that have been completed.



## Pickleball Courts Come to Franconia Community Park

If you didn't know it already, pickleball is presently one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S. with over 2.8 million players nationwide. Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a Wiffle Ball, over a net.

Pickleball's growth has been spreading in leaps and bounds in our area, and the Franconia Township Parks and Recreation Board saw the need of bringing the sport to our Township. After researching various options to get the ball rolling, it was decided to line stripe the tennis courts at Franconia Community Park for the dual purpose of tennis and pickleball. It is the desire of the Board to see how well the pickleball courts are utilized, with the intention of possibly adding more courts in other parks if the sport is well accepted.

For those who play pickleball, many feel it's addictive. Some of the reasons it is so well loved are:

- It's easy to play
- It's a social sport
- It's fun for all ages but is still a fast-paced sport
- You can easily find time to play as matches are quick

If you haven't had an opportunity to try your hand at pickleball, now is the time. Head over to Franconia Community Park with some friends and try it out for yourselves!



## New Laurel Lane Park Playground Equipment Complete

Laurel Lane Park has a new look these days after having undergone significant upgrades with the installation of new playground equipment. Township Manager Jon Hammer says, “We continue to invest in our parks and take great pride in having some of the finest parks in the region.” The new equipment, installed in July, 2018 will provide safe, clean and healthy play options for the community. Children and parents alike are enjoying the replacement of the equipment with one note of thanks as follows:

*“Thank you so very kindly for replacing the Laurel Lane playground equipment with modern, safe choices allowing the children of this neighborhood to once again have a safe place to play. Not only have you made my child happy, but you have made a positive impact on our community as I have seen many more families now looking forward to simple playground play again.”*



*Quinn Mayhew enjoying her time on the new Laurel Lane Park playground equipment*



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## Stormwater Management Is An Important Issue

The importance of Stormwater Management can be a difficult concept to grasp, but it is a crucial issue for municipalities to handle. Stormwater is exactly what its name implies – rainwater that comes from a storm and runs off the land after that precipitation. However, the problem with stormwater runoff is that it can carry chemicals, metals, bacteria, viruses, and other pollutants into creeks, rivers, streams and lakes. Severe erosion and flooding can also be caused by stormwater runoff.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recognized the concerns surrounding stormwater runoff and has established regulations that municipalities in Pennsylvania are required to follow. As municipalities in the Commonwealth begin to take management of this problem more seriously, it is Franconia Township's goal to inform and educate its residents about stormwater management. This article is the first step in explaining what stormwater is and the importance of controlling it. In future issues of Franc Talk, we will be outlining ways that homeowners can work along with the Township in dealing with the important issue of stormwater management.

## Recycling is Required

Municipal and state regulations require 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 acceptable recyclable materials.

## Contaminated Recycling Materials

Contaminated recycling materials cannot be recycled and usually end up going to a landfill. Here is a list of contaminants that make recycling materials non-recyclable:

1. **Plastic Bags:** Do not place your recycling materials in a plastic bag. Plastic bags cannot be recycled. The recycler will either waste time removing the plastic bag or worse, discard the bag and its contents and send it to a landfill.
2. **Food Wastes:** Uncleaned containers with leftover food wastes cannot be recycled. Containers contaminated with food wastes will be sent to a landfill. You need to wash food containers and remove all of the food before placing the containers into your recycle bin.
3. **Bright Colored Paper:** In general, bright colored paper should not be recycled.
4. **Frozen Food Containers:** The coating on frozen food containers makes them non-recyclable.
5. **Shredded Paper:** Shredded paper should not be placed into your recycling bin.
6. **Caps and Tops to Bottles, Jars and Containers:** Caps and tops are not recyclable; throw these in the trash, not the recycling bin.

We all want to maximize our recycling efforts, but we need to recycle the correct materials in the correct manner. Otherwise, we upset the recycling facility and much of our "recycled waste" ends up in a landfill. You should check with your hauler if you have any questions about what materials can be recycled.



## FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

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## Discount Ski Tickets

The Parks & Recreation Board will be selling discount ski tickets again this winter. The tickets will be listed on the Township website when they arrive so please check our website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org) to find out what tickets are offered and when they are available. Once the tickets are received, they can be purchased at the Township Office located on Allentown Road during normal business hours (M-F, 8 am-4:30 pm). Tickets must be purchased by cash only.

## Sign Up For The Township's Email Newsletter

The Township's email newsletter delivers updates on activities, news and meetings right to your inbox. To subscribe, just visit the Township's website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org). Your address will only be used for the Township's email newsletters.



You can also keep informed by following the Township on [Twitter at @FranconiaTwp](#).