

franc talk



Fall 2021

Weathering the COVID-19 Storm: A Message From The Board Of Supervisors

As we move into fall, the excitement of a new school year, football season, and the overall beauty of the fall season seems sweeter than before. The past year and a half has been difficult for everyone. Hardly a person went untouched, either directly, or by a close family member or a friend who was infected by COVID-19. The day-to-day life we were accustomed to was suddenly altered with unprecedented shutdowns of schools, businesses, and restaurants that threatened the livelihood of so many. Family get togethers were cancelled and travel was restricted. Isolation became the new norm. In the midst of this uncertain time, Franconia Township has maintained a strong sense of community, in large part because of each of you.

The Township is committed to meeting the needs of our businesses and residents. We want to thank the Franconia Township Police Department, Public Works Department, and administrative staff for their commitment to our community throughout the pandemic. With safety measures in place, they have faithfully served our residents. Their strong sense of community was evident last spring when the Franconia Township Police Department, along with local restaurants, provided meals for 300 needy families on four separate Friday evenings.

The Franconia Township Administration Building is open to the public, and willing to help and serve our residents. Public Township meetings are open to the public and are held in person with social distancing procedures in place. We are also resuming the Franconia Township Fall Festival the weekend of October 9th.

But please be vigilant. As much as we all want to see "normal" again, we need to all be responsible in social gatherings as we deal with the new Delta variant of COVID. We have learned what we all need to do over the last year and a half to be safe. However, understandably, everyone is experiencing a level of fatigue. Please don't let your guard down so close to the finish line.

We want to thank the residents of our great Township for your resolve and unity through this uncertain time. Like the excitement of a beautiful, crisp fall day, we look forward in anticipation to more normal times. We are closely monitoring conditions statewide and locally as we remain committed to serving our community as safely and effectively as possible.

Stay safe everyone!

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
Dr. Charles Amuso, Supervisor
Jill Halteman, Supervisor

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jon A. Hammer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration 215-723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1
Michael L. Martin, Chief
Steven Cronin, Administrative Sergeant

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

FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 9 & OCTOBER 10





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Development Of 2022 Township Budget Underway

It is hard to believe how quickly this year is going! As summer comes to a close and fall is upon us, Franconia Township has been in full swing with the 2022 budget process. Each month, Franconia Township's Board of Supervisors, township manager and department heads review the financial reports created by our independent CPA firm to assess the financial condition of the township.

In July, we began compiling information from multiple sources to begin the 2022 budget process. We use a modified zero-based budgeting strategy, where everything needs to be justified, including staffing, capital needs and day-to-day expenditures. Monthly financial reports, multi-year budgets, expenditure and revenue histories are studied. Department heads compile lists of needs and wants for the upcoming year which are then reviewed and discussed with the other department heads, township manager and financial coordinator. Revenue predictions are a bit trickier in these times. With the bulk of our revenue coming from earned income taxes and real estate taxes, a good portion of revenue comes from variable revenues such as building and other type permits that fluctuate with the national economy.

Further, the Township pension funds are closely tied to the overall economy and market conditions. With good market returns the past few years, we've been able to solidify our pension plans which correlate to lower annual payments to the funds.

Franconia Township embraces a forward-thinking mindset when looking at the budget and makes financial projections for five years. A five-year Capital Projection Budget is created and reviewed for large expenditures, such as road maintenance, equipment repair and replacement, computer upgrades and infrastructure improvements.

In October, there is a full review of the budget draft where additional tweaks are made to the budget as we receive premium costs for our various insurance policies and other such items for the following year. The Board of Supervisors will publicly review the budget, and the budget will be advertised in the local newspaper. The proposed budget draft will also be available at the township office for review by residents. Lastly, the 2022 Budget will be adopted by the Supervisors in December.

Should you have any questions on the Township budget process, feel free to reach out to the Township Manager Jon Hammer at admin@franconia-township.org or 215-723-1137, or feel free to review the Township audit which is posted on the website.





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Public Works Department Takes Pride In Parks And Roads

This summer, the Public Works Department was very busy maintaining our expansive park and trail system. Many thanks to our residents for the numerous compliments we received for keeping everything well maintained from mowing the grass, making repairs and ensuring playground equipment is safe for our children. The Public Works staff takes great pride in keeping everything looking good!

Aside from parks and trails, Public Works continues with its program of maintaining its massive infrastructure of storm water management along with pavement preservation. We completed our nova pave project for this year along with our chip seal, fog seal and cape seal projects in the spring. We received approval from PennDOT for planned paving projects and then began the prep work involved for those upcoming overlays.

With winter arriving in the coming months, we need to remind you to prepare for the inevitable upcoming change in weather from liquid precipitation to that dreaded black ice and snow. We are located in a region where weather can change quickly. In the wintertime, precipitation can produce snow, rain or freezing rain and driving conditions can go from dry to wet to treacherous very quickly.

The Franconia Highway Department is under contract with PennDOT for winter maintenance of all State highways within the Township, along with our Township-owned roadways, giving us a total of 80 single-lane miles to keep safe. This total needs to be doubled to complete one pass when plowing open the roadways and a second pass to widen and clean up intersections. We always appreciate when the residents give us room to get our job done so we can be out of the way and traffic can flow more freely.

With regard to streets not being blocked in any way, it is a good reminder that it is unlawful to have any type of basketball structure located within the right-of-way of all Township roads. When clearing snow from curb to curb to allow our mail carriers to make these deliveries, we need the curb line accessible for our equipment. If you have any basketball structure and/or have questions as to where they are permitted, please contact the Public Works Department and they would be happy to assist you.

We ask that each one of you please do your part in paying attention to temperatures and road conditions as you travel over the fall and winter months. We, as highway personnel, will continue to do our best in keeping the roadways safe to travel.



Land Development Update

The following is a look at Land Development projects in the Township.

Approved or Under Construction

The Pizza Box – 402 Morwood Road

Medical Office Building – County Line Road and Township Line Road

Peter Becker Community – 30 Cottages at Pondview

Amplifier Research – Building addition, 160 Schoolhouse Road

Alderfer Glass – 134 Telford Pike, Warehouse and office expansion with associated parking

Bayard Estates – WB Homes, Indian Creek Road, 22 Single Family Homes and 23.6 acres designated for Open Space

Preliminary Approval

Belton Manor Estates – 9 Single Family Homes, Godshall Road

Allebach Tract – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road

Rezone Projects

Neighborhood Overlay District – To permit mixed residential development. Applied to property along Beck Road and Cowpath Road.

Professional Office Overlay District – To allow professional office use through the Conditional Use process. Applied to parcels along Township Line Road and County Line Road



BEWARE. IT'S A SCAM!



The Franconia Township Police Department and other police agencies within Montgomery County have been receiving reports from residents whose identity have been stolen or compromised and then used to open unemployment claims, credit cards, phone services, and bank accounts. We also receive frequent reports of scammers attempting to trick or intimidate people into revealing personal information or making payments. Here are a few of the most common scams and how they work:

Unemployment Fraud

The COVID-19 pandemic created much financial turmoil within the United States and around the world. The pandemic forced many Americans out of work, thereby creating a fast and furious demand for unemployment benefits. The number of unemployment claims has been overwhelming, and the Department of Labor and Industry has had difficulty keeping pace with the claims filed. This has created fertile ground for opportunistic criminals to cash in for themselves.

Police reports filed with Franconia Township Police Department indicate that many victims of unemployment identity theft learn of their victimization from either their employer and/or by receiving US Bank ReliaCard or unemployment checks in the mail. You should not attempt to cash a check or activate the US Bank ReliaCard if you did not sign up for unemployment benefits. Instead, you should mark "Void" on all checks and return them to:

Department of Treasury Comptroller's Office
Attn: Mark Accorsi
Room 113, Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Anyone who receives a US Bank ReliaCard should take photos of both front and back of the US Bank ReliaCard and then email pictures to the PA Treasury Office of Investigations at the following email address:

officeofinvestigations@patreasury.gov

Internal Revenue Service

Scammers will call or send letters to potential victims with threats of an arrest for not properly filing taxes over the years. The I.R.S. will not make threats of an arrest and will not ask for back payments in the way of gift cards. If the I.R.S. had questions regarding your tax filing, a date and time would be arranged to meet directly with an I.R.S. representative.

Family member needing bail money

This scam is designed to trick you into paying money to free a family member who has been allegedly arrested. The scammer will try to make you believe he/she is a bail bondsman, an officer, or a clerk for legal aid of the courts. The scammer will then go into some detail that a family member was charged in a crime and bail money is needed in order to release the family member. The scammer will ask for bail money to be paid by either banking account information, credit card information, or purchasing of gift cards. No legitimate bail bondsman will ask for payment information over the phone, especially not gift cards. If you would ever need to post a bail for a family member or a friend, you will need to sign paperwork and/or a contract to protect everyone involved.



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How is your information being stolen?

Criminals are constantly trying to steal your personal identity by using fake emails, phone calls, text messages, or hacking into websites, such as Amazon and Walmart, where you may do online shopping. Some sophisticated criminals will even try hacking into your personal computer or cellular phones to obtain information from Social Media platforms. Never supply your personal information to anyone via text, email, social media platforms or over the phone, especially from a phone number you do not recognize.

“Phishing” is a term used to describe the electronic or telephonic methods by which criminals try to get your personal information (name, date of birth, Social Security number, home address). Unsolicited emails or phone calls requesting personal information or instructing you to click on a link are undoubtedly Phishing expeditions.

“Dumpster Diving” is a term used to describe how criminal sort through trash containers looking for personal information listed on discarded documents. Be sure to shred any document containing personal and/or financial information.

“Skimming” is a term used to describe how criminals copy your credit/debit card numbers during a legitimate transaction. Card numbers can be skimmed with a secondary recording device, either affixed to an actual point-of-sale terminal or a small hand-held device. Always check statements carefully and check your credit report at least annually.

Theft of personal property remains the most highly effective method for obtaining personal information. Should your wallet or purse be stolen, immediately call the police and your credit card companies.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

If you receive a phone call, text message, or other communication informing you that you are a lottery winner or a winner of a prize from another country, do not fall for it. The scammer will instruct you to pay additional fees, or “up front” taxes associated with obtaining your winnings. Scammers will request you pay the additional fees in the following manner:

- Gift cards
- Your bank account information
- Your credit card numbers

Gift Cards

The scammer will instruct to purchase a certain dollar amount and ask you to call them back to confirm the purchase(s). Once you call them back, the scammer will ask that you supply the serial numbers on the back of the gift cards. When the scammer receives the serial numbers, the gift cards are redeemed and no longer valid. The scammer quickly uses the serial numbers to make purchases. The same would be done if you supplied your banking or credit card information.

Phone numbers for Victims of Financial Crimes

Credit Bureaus

Equifax (800) 525-6285
Experian (888) 397-3742
Trans Union (800) 680-7289

Social Security Administration

(800) 269-0271

Federal Trade Commission

(877) IDTHEFT (438-4338)

National Consumer League

(800) 876-7060

Consumer Credit Counseling Service

(800) 388-CCCS (2227)

United States Secret Service (Phila)

(800) 861-3300



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Welcome To Franconia Township

The real estate market has truly been a tricky endeavor during the past year but along with that has been many new residents moving into our beautiful Township. We welcome those of you that are new to Franconia Township and believe the information that follows will be a helpful resource to you as you become acquainted with our community. Additional information about the amenities afforded to you can be found on the Township website at www.franconiatownship.org.

UTILITIES

Water:	North Penn Water Authority	215-855-3617
Sewer:	Franconia Sewer Authority	215-723-1137
Cable/Phone:	Comcast	215-257-8046
	Verizon	800-660-2215
Electric:	PP&L	800-342-5775
Gas:	PECO	800-484-4000
Oil:	Resident's choice	

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Souderton Area School District
215-723-6061
www.soudertonsd.org

TAXES

Earned income tax: 1.25% for residents living in Franconia Township

Collected By:
Berkheimer Tax Associates
325 Pottstown Pike
Exton, PA 19341
610-599-3140

School & Real Estate Taxes Collected By:

Wm. Keith Freed
Franconia Township Tax Collector
215-723-2024
wkeithfreed@franconia-township.org

POLICE	Emergencies:	911
	Non-Emergencies:	215-723-6777

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	215-723-1153
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TRASH COLLECTION

Resident's choice
(Recycling bins are available at the Township Building)

Advanced Disposal:	610-440-3700
Allied Waste Service: (now Republic Services)	215-723-0400
Waste Management:	215-257-1142
Whitetail Disposal:	610-754-0103

Free leaf bags are available at the Township Building. Please contact your trash hauler to determine guidelines for pickup of full bags.

20'X35' (40' DIAGONAL SCREEN SIZE) GATES OPEN 5:30PM



October 1st
(Friday)

\$20 DONATION PER CARLOAD
MOVIES START AT 7:00 PM



October 2nd
(Saturday)

FOR TICKETS VISIT www.ftpba.com
(Tickets limited to the first 350 cars)

Food & Drinks will be available for purchase at the pavillion



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Household Hazardous Waste Collections Set For September and October

Montgomery County sponsors a number of household hazardous waste recycling events annually. The last two events for 2021 will be held on Saturday, September 25th at Spring Ford 9th Grade Center, 400 South Lewis Rd., Royersford, PA and Sunday, October 24th at Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley, PA by appointment only. Registration is required, and the list of events with their registration link can be found on the Township's home page website under News and Announcements. A list of guidelines for acceptable materials follows this article.

One item that can be handled properly by residents is latex paint. If you have latex paint you wish to dispose of, you can take the lid off and let it dry out in the sun or fill the can with cat litter to dry it out. Once this is done, these paint cans be thrown in the trash. This is not the case for oil paint. It must be taken to a hazardous waste recycling event.

Due to the difficulty of complying with State regulations, electronic recycling events are rarely sponsored. Although State law requires electronics manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities for TVs and computers, those manufacturers are no longer sponsoring County recycling collections in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region. Concern about the lack of disposal options for TVs and computers should be directed to the appropriate State Representative and Senator. If you are uncertain who that is, go to www.legis.state.pa.us and on the left under "Find Your Legislator," enter your address.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

PAINT PRODUCTS	OUTDOOR PRODUCTS	AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	HOUSEHOLD OTHER
Turpentine	Swimming Pool Chemicals	Grease & Rust Solvents	Drain Openers	Acids, Caustics, Solvents
Paint Thinners	Weed Killers	Fuel Additives	Rug Cleaners	Flammables
Strippers & Removers	Septic Tank Degreasers	Carburetor Cleaners	Wood & Metal Cleaners	Oxidizers
Oil-Based Paints	Asphalt Sealers	Transmission/Brake Fluid	Mothballs/Flakes	Reactives
Stains, Varnish	Caulking Compounds	Antifreeze	Adhesives/Solvents	Lead
Shellac	Joint Compound	Car(lead-acid), Truck, Motorcycle, Marine, Batteries	Rechargeable Batteries, Lithium, Ni-Cad, Button, Lead Acid	Mercury (Thermostats & Thermometers)
Other Solvent-Based Paint Products	Roof Cements	Gas, Oil, Gas Oil Mixture	Spot Removers, Dry Cleaning Fluid	Fluorescent Tubes, Ballast, and CFLs
Wallpaper Cement	MINI Propane Tanks, No BBQ Tanks	Road Flares, No Marine Flares	Fire Extinguishers	Aerosols
Spray Paint	Pesticide		Kerosene	Electric Oil-filled Heaters

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

Explosives & Ammunition	Electronics/Televisions	Asbestos	Appliances/White Goods
Infectious or Medical Waste, Prescription Drugs	BBQ-Sized Propane Tanks (leave at local exchange sites)	Radioactive Waste	Freon/Refrigerants
Tires	Helium Tanks	Unidentified Waste	25- or 50-Gallon Drums
Latex Paint* (Water-Based)	Gas Cylinders	Alkaline Batteries (Trash)	Smoke Detectors

* Take off lid, dry out paint, discard can without lid; or pour paint into plastic bag with absorbent material (clay based kitty litter, saw dust, rags) place bag and can without lid, in trash. Paint hardener can also be purchased at hardware stores.

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Montgomery County events are following state guidelines and public health restrictions.
- Events may be cancelled based on the status of the pandemic as per state requirements.
- Materials must be in the trunk of the car or bed of the truck or SUV. Leave items at home that are not for the event.
- If you need your gas can or container returned, please tape a note to it stating that you want to keep it.
- You must stay in your car and wear a mask while in the event site.
- You may arrive any time within your registered appointment window.
- Please print out your ticket if possible (or write your name and appointment time on a piece of paper) and place it on your dashboard.
- If you cannot attend the event, please cancel your appointment through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) or by contacting [Montco Recycling](https://www.montco.org/recycling), as others may be waiting for an opening.

DROP OFF GUIDELINES

- NO TVs, electronics, or appliances will be accepted.
- Event workers will unload your materials so please remain in your vehicle with your windows up.
- BUSINESSES AND CONTRACTORS WILL BE TURNED AWAY, no commercial/industrial waste accepted.
- Bring all substances in original containers with labels. Items must be identifiable. Do not mix materials.
- Tighten lids on all containers. If containers are leaking, pack in larger container with newspaper to soak up leaks.
- Maximum amount accepted is 25 gallons or 220 pounds. No 25- or 50-gallon drums.
- There are no permanent drop off locations in the region for household hazardous waste, only the listed collections.



FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road
Telford, PA 18969-2205

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

www.franconiatownship.org



The Beat Tells took Franconia to “Strawberry Fields Forever” during the annual Summer Concert in August. A great crowd enjoyed the hits of the Beatles with family and friends under nice weather. See you for the 2022 concert.

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. 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](https://twitter.com/FranconiaTwp).