

# franc talk



Fall 2022

## Fall Fest: It Really Was Fun For the Whole Family

The 3rd Annual Franconia Township Fall Festival was a hit again this year!

With our biggest turnout ever, we estimated that we had over 8,000 people join in the fun! It turned out to be a beautiful weekend, which allowed us to incorporate some new events and attractions while also bringing back some of the much-anticipated activities from previous years.

The pumpkin patch, hay maze and hayrides are always a fan favorite for the kids, which makes it a staple of the Fall Fest every year. We loved seeing all the families making new memories together.

The helicopter rides were a new addition to the Fall Fest and offered not only a great ride but also a once in a lifetime view of our magnificent Township from the sky. We hope to be able to bring them back in the coming years.

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### FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road  
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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  
Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works Director

Throughout the weekend, we had over 70 vendors and each one had something special to offer! Home decor, candles, soaps, lotions, toys, floral arrangements and so much more! It was amazing how many exceptionally talented people are right here in our own backyard, creating fantastic products for everyone to enjoy.

The food was incredible and there was so much to choose from. The food vendors really knocked it out of the park with their delicious culinary delights! The Mike Greer Band, The Mighty Manatees, and the Ashley Godshall Trio all drew in quite the crowd during their sets. Adam, with AC DJs, was on hand to announce activities and provide a musical backdrop while the bands took a well-deserved break. As always, Adam knows how to keep a crowd entertained.

Saturday at Fall Fest was Emergency Services Day, which featured Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services from all over the region and state. Many people took the opportunity to interact with emergency personnel, check out their tools and equipment, and watch the live demonstrations they put on. Saturday concluded with the most spectacular fireworks display. We have never seen anything like it, and we hope you were able to enjoy the fireworks display. On Sunday, we hosted our first ever Jeep O Ween! We were so excited to have over 30 participants. The Jeep decorating contest was a hit, and we enjoyed seeing so much creativity. Congratulations to our Jeep O-Ween winners!

Fall Fest 2022 was another great weekend of family, fun and food. We hope you had as much fun as we did! This is yet another incredible display of why Franconia Township is one of the best places to live!





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## 2023 Township Budget: Another Year of No Tax Increases

Franconia Township's 2023 Budget will be another year without a real estate tax increase. 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. Despite the difficult economy, the Township's financial position remains strong. For those interested, and for complete transparency, the Township posts an independent audit on the Township website

In July, the Township begins compiling information from multiple sources to begin the 2023 budget process. We use a modified zero-based budgeting strategy, where everything needs to be justified, including staffing, capital needs and the 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.

Currently, revenue predictions are a bit trickier. While the bulk of our revenue comes from earned income taxes and real estate taxes, a good portion of revenue comes from variable revenues such as building and other type of permits that fluctuate with the national economy.

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 revised for large expenditures such as road maintenance, equipment repairs and replacement, computer upgrades and infrastructure improvements. This year, much needed renovations were completed at the township building. A new lobby, meeting room, restrooms, flooring, ceiling, lighting and a new audio/visual system were added.

In October there was a full review of the budget draft where additional tweaks were made to the budget as we received premium costs for our various insurance policies, and other such items for the following year. The Board of Supervisors will then 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 2023 Budget is adopted by the Supervisors in December.

Should you have any questions on the township budget process, please reach out to the Township Manager Jon Hammer at [admin@franconia-township.org](mailto:admin@franconia-township.org) or (215) 723-1137.





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## Police Department Is Reaccredited

On July 28, the Township was notified that the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission unanimously voted to re-accredit the Franconia Township Police Department.

The re-accreditation process occurs every three years and examines all functions of the Police Department during that time. In May, three trained assessors from various counties within Pennsylvania performed an on-site review of our personnel, equipment, policies, procedures, and facilities. The assessors found that our police department complies with all 133 standards.

James Adams, Accreditation Program Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Police Chief's Association wrote, "Your work in this program demonstrates the type of leadership we strive for in law enforcement in Pennsylvania. You have the right to be very proud of your agency. Only a small percentage of law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania are able to say that they have completed this rigorous program."

Chief Michael Martin credits this success to the professionalism of all the officers who continually strive for excellence while holding firm to the department's mission and values.

"Without the commitment and dedication of each and every one of our officers, we would not be able to achieve such recognition. Most importantly, their compassion for others and sincere desire to always do the right thing is what has allowed us to earn the community's trust," Chief Martin said. "Also, adopting the industry's best policies and practices and sticking to them is what allowed us to earn the assessors' respect. We will continue to work hard, evolve, and always strive to improve our service."

The chief gives special recognition to Administrative Sergeant Steven Cronin and Accreditation Consultant Michael Croom for spearheading the effort of tracking necessary proofs of compliance for all applicable standards.

The Franconia Township Police Department was first accredited in May of 2010.

## Welcome Officer Wilson!

On October 4, Franconia welcomed a new officer to the Police Department.

The Franconia Township Police Department is committed to law enforcement professionalism through integrity, respect, and service. To maintain the quality of service that Franconia Township residents have come to expect from our department, any officer hired must first go through a stringent process to ensure they can and will live up to the values the Department strives to uphold. Officer Scott Wilson exceeded expectations in this process and has proven himself to be not only a genuinely good person, but also a great police officer.

Before starting in Franconia, Officer Wilson had been employed as a full-time police officer with the City of Philadelphia Police Department since May of 2015. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he is a graduate of Franklin Towne Charter School and attended Rosemont College, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 2021.

While serving in the Philadelphia Police Department, he worked in the 25th District and was on several special units within the department. Scott is also a certified Emergency Medical Technician and is a member of the Harleysville Volunteer Fire Company.

Please join us in welcoming Officer Wilson to Franconia Township and say hello to him if you see him around town. He is an excellent addition to our department and to the community we serve.

## Pam Paraskewik Retires After 14 Years Of Service

The Police Department bid a fond farewell and happy retirement to its Administrative Assistant Pam Paraskewik on July 29. Pam had been greeting visitors and handling requests for information at the Police Department since May of 2008. Pam always went out of her way to help residents, co-workers, and businesspersons. With a smile on her face and a kind word, Pam made sure that the office ran smoothly.



Congratulations and Happy Retirement, Pam!



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## Franconia Township and Police Association Sign Three-Year Contract Extension

On September 19, Franconia Township and the Franconia Township Police Association signed an extension to their current collective bargaining agreement through December 31, 2026.

With the current agreement in place through December 31, 2023, both sides felt this was a good time to extend the agreement for an additional three years.

"We have an outstanding relationship with our Police Department and are very proud of the work they do for our community," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Grey Godshall. "We have a very professional police staff, they are well-trained and do a great job."

Franconia Township Police Association President Tim Boyle agrees. "Our officers enjoy working in Franconia and serving the businesses and residents. It's a special place and we're proud to serve," Boyle said. "This contract

extension solidifies our relationship and ensures we will continue to have an outstanding force for years to come."

Franconia Township has been ranked by several publications as being one of the safest communities in all of Pennsylvania.

"This doesn't happen by accident" says Township Manager Jon Hammer. "Our Police Department has forged close relationships with our residents. We have thousands of residents keeping an eye on our community and willing to call when something doesn't seem right in their neighborhood."

Aside from traditional policing duties, the Franconia Police Department and Police Benevolent Association run numerous community functions throughout the year, including Fall Fest in early October, Shop with a Cop, and Movie Nights in Franconia Community Park.

## Franconia Unveils New Accessible Playground

With new play equipment, a new rubberized surface, and the first playground in the Township that will allow children of all abilities to play together on equipment accessible to all, Franconia Township in October unveiled a new playground at the Franconia Community Park on Allentown Road.

The playground encompasses over 5,000 square feet and has ten new pieces of equipment which includes shade structures for those hot days, and easy on/off equipment for those with mobility issues. The rubberized play surface will allow wheelchairs, and those with a difficult time walking on wood chips to access the new play equipment.

The Township incorporated a "farm theme" to the playground, paying homage to the Township's rich farming heritage. Among the feature pieces are a new brightly colored tractor and corn stalk climbers to go along with new swings and a merry-go-round.

"It's a project the entire community can be proud of," says Township Manager Jon Hammer. "Building this playground speaks to the type of caring and generous community we have in Franconia. It's more than a playground; it's a community gathering space for our residents."



## Tips For Recycling Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors are a life-saving device that should be in everyone's home. Smoke detectors have an expiration date—10 years for smoke detectors and 5 to 7 years for combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. So how do you dispose of an expired smoke detector?

The answer to this question depends on the type of smoke detector. There are two types of smoke detectors: ionizing and photoelectric.

Ionizing smoke detectors use a tiny amount of a radioactive isotope and electrically charged plates to detect smoke. When smoke enters the detector, it stops the flow of ions between the two electrically charged plates, causing the alarm to sound. Ionizing smoke detectors are best at detecting flaming fires.

Photoelectric smoke detectors contain a light sensor and a light aimed away from the sensor. When smoke enters the detector, the light is reflected onto the light sensor, causing the alarm to sound. Photoelectric smoke detectors are best at detecting smoldering fires.

There are also dual sensors which contain both types of detectors in one unit. You can identify the type of smoke detector by looking at the back. If you see a radioactive symbol, then you have an ionizing or dual sensor smoke detector. The back of the smoke detector has the date of manufacture, which you can use to determine the expiration date.

Smoke detectors are not accepted at Montgomery County household hazardous waste or E-waste recycling events or drop-off locations. Photoelectric smoke detectors can be thrown in your household trash after removing the battery. Due to the radioactive material in ionizing smoke detectors, they must be recycled; however, they cannot be put into a household recycling bin. There are two options for properly recycling ionized or dual sensor smoke detectors:

**Return to manufacturer:** many companies will accept their brand of ionizing smoke detectors for recycling. The United States Postal Service provides a list of manufacturers that accept smoke detectors and their addresses. You must pay for postage and, in some cases, a small fee for recycling. Google provides a free shipping label to recycle their Google Nest smoke detectors.

**Smoke detector recycling kit:** Curie Environmental Services offers a smoke detector recycling kit to recycling ionizing smoke detectors, regardless of brand. The kits include proper shipping materials and paid postage. The kit will be shipped to your home, and you can simply add your smoke detectors (battery removed) and drop off with the shipping carrier listed on the postage.

For more information on recycling smoke detectors, go to [northmontcorecycle.com](http://northmontcorecycle.com)

## Land Development Update

### Approved or Under Construction

- **The Pizza Box** – 402 Morwood 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
- **Belton Manor Estates** – 8 Single Family Homes, Godshall Road
- **Allebach Tract** – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road
- **Reserves at Franconia, Pulte Homes** – 42 Single Family Homes & 42 Townhouses Beck Road and Cowpath Road
- **Souderton Borough Public Works Building** – 160 Cherry Lane
- **NCC Automated Systems** – 255 Schoolhouse Road 29,000 square foot warehouse addition as Phase I
- **Hopewell Christian Fellowship** – Detached Pole Building for Youth Center

### Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- **Souderton Mennonite Homes** – Land Development, W Reliance and Colonial Avenue

### Rezoning Projects

- **Rezoning of parcels along W Reliance Road** – From R-130 to Institutional
- **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



## Pickleball Clinic A Hit

On April 28, the Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board sponsored a free pickleball clinic for residents that was conducted by Barb Matase, the USA Pickleball Association Ambassador for Souderton-Quakertown.

Although the evening was a bit cool and windy, the group of 15 residents seemed to enjoy their time learning details and instruction on the basics of the sport that included simple exercises to learn ball control and some practice on the courts playing the game in foursomes. It was a joke among the instructor and group that if they could play in

the wind and cold of the evening, they should have a great edge on playing the sport in nice weather!

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Please come out and try your hand at the sport at the tennis/pickleball courts located at Franconia Community Park. The courts are dually lined (white lines for tennis and red and blue lines for pickleball). If you would like to learn more about the sport, please go to [USAPA.org](http://USAPA.org) for information.

## Public Works Department Focuses On Infrastructure

Franconia Township's Public Works' crew is always looking for a way to improve the infrastructure in the Township and ways to slow down storm water to prevent erosion. One of the goals of the Public Works Department is to be looking ahead and to watch out for potential problems that may occur on or in our roadways and storm sewers.

One way we can do this is by pavement preservation to our road surface. There are a few ways of achieving this while being cost effective. Some processes used this year were:

- Ultra-thin overlay process used on Mininger Road and completed in June.
- Double Seal Coat followed by Polymer Modified Fog Seal process used in the Heatherfield and Hunters Way development which was also completed in June.
- Cape Seal process on Cherry Lane completed in July.
- Milling and paving on Middle Park Drive and Banbury Drive completed in October.

Enos B. Godshall Park is getting some attention as well. The Public Works crew took on the task of converting the pond that had been algae ridden and very overgrown to a bio retention pond. Some tasks that took place so far this year were having the area cleared of brush and removing many dead ash trees. The pond water was then pumped down. After this work was completed, we used a large excavator to clean out the sediment that was at the bottom of the pond and installed an outfall structure to allow the water out of the pond. The Township has a few years to complete this work so look for more information in upcoming articles.

The Franconia Community Park received some upgrades done to the playground equipment in September and October, and the playground wood chips were removed and a smooth rubberized play surface was installed.



Work being done on the new bio-retention area at Enos B. Godshall Park



Ultra-thin overlay process being applied to Mininger Road. Double Seal Coat followed by Polymer Modified Fog Seal process



## FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

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## Township News On Website

Are you interested in the latest news, events and information for Franconia Township? If you visit the home page of the township website at [franconiatownship.org](http://franconiatownship.org) and scroll down to "News & Announcements," you will find the most recent information the township has to offer. We invite you to visit the page regularly to be "in the know!"



Mike Guldin & Rollin' & Tumblin' brought a great performance this year to Franconia Township's Summer Concert on Sunday, August 14th. It was a beautiful evening, and everyone in attendance seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. We hope you will join us for our concert in 2023!

[www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org)