

# FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Spring 2004

## Building Code Update: Franconia Township Adopting New Code Act 45 - International Building Code of 2003

Franconia Township will be adopting the New International Building Code of 2003, during the period of April 9th, 2004 through July 8th, 2004. All 2,566 municipalities in the state must conform to the new building code.

One of the new changes in the code that may affect township residents is when you proceed to have a living area in your basement. You will now need a second egress (access). The code calls for an exterior door or an approved egress window of 5.7 sq/ft of open area. All bedrooms in the basement must also have an approved egress (access) window. Permits that are approved and issued before the adoption of the International Building Code 2003 will be under the rules of the present Code of BOCA 99. Permits are valid for one year from the date of issue. Zoning regulations will still require permits for additions, patios, decks, pools and fences. Please remember your permits!

For more information about the building code, log onto [www.dlistate.pa.us](http://www.dlistate.pa.us) and click on "Building Code" under Quick Links. Then choose the "Implementation Update" item. You may also call PSATS at (717) 763-0930.

The Franconia Township Building and Code Enforcement Department is also available to answer your questions. 🌸

## Open House Planned for Intersection Realignment

On Monday, April 26, 2004 from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M., the township will host a public open house to introduce the proposed realignment of the intersection located at W. Broad / Cowpath / Godshall roads. A tremendous amount of planning has been discussed by the steering committee that began its work in 2002. The open house is one of two planned for the intersection. The project is assigned to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that support highway projects through local, state and federal funding. 🌸

## New Chairman Selected by the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Steven P. Barndt was elected Chairman of the Board at their annual organizational meeting on January 5, 2004. He replaces Grey R. Godshall who was elected 1st Vice-Chairman after serving three years as Chairman. W. Keith Freed was elected 2nd Vice-Chairman and Supervisors Drew Darrah and Curtis N. Kratz complete the board's composition. 🌸



Assistant Township Manager, Jamie Brophy

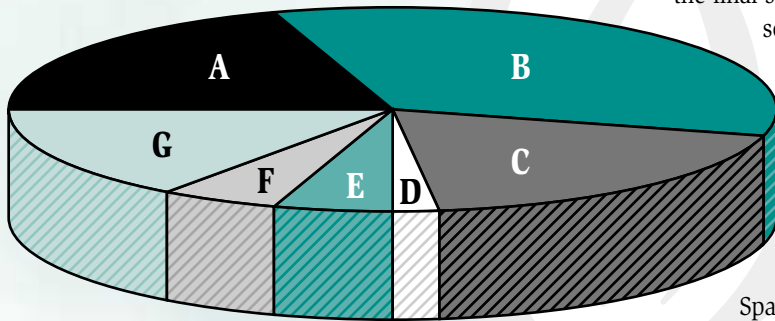
## New Assistant Township Manager

Franconia Township recently appointed a new Assistant Manager. Jamie Brophy was officially promoted to the position on February 20, 2004. Jamie is new to the position but not new to the township. She joined the administration in October of 2002 and has been working here ever since. In her previous position she was responsible for establishing and maintaining the land development/subdivision escrow accounts, sewer billings and certifications, and bid preparation, as well as other administrative duties. She will now be involved with open space, grant writing, subdivision/land development procedures, and the Park and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Brophy is a 1999 graduate of Shippensburg University where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. After graduating she worked as an intern for State Senator Joe Conti in Doylestown. Following her internship she worked in administrative positions for Merck & Company Inc. and Aon Corporation. She has resided in Perkasio for 20 years. Outside of work she enjoys running, shopping and spending time with her family. 🌸

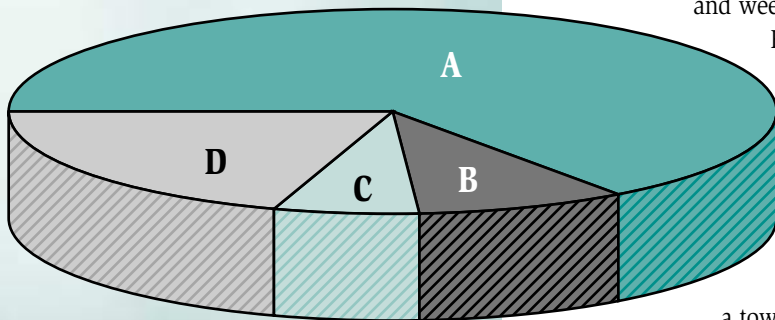
# 2004 Township Budget Approval Without Tax Increase

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$3.86 million General Fund Budget while keeping the township real estate tax unchanged.



Expenses are allocated to the following departments:

- A) Administration: \$780,410
- B) Police/Fire Protection: \$1,332,301
- C) Public Works: \$718,370
- D) Code Enforcement: \$93,645
- E) Recreation: \$195,020
- F) Debt Service: \$178,646
- G) Interfund Transfers: \$563,415



Revenue is from the following sources:

- A) Taxes (Real Estate, Per Capita, EIT): \$2,511,210
- B) Intergovernmental Revenue: \$360,000
- C) General Government Fees: \$223,950
- D) Operating Transfers: \$766,647

# Open Space Efforts Continue

The Board of Supervisors continue to realize success in the township's effort to preserve some of its farming heritage. Currently the township has secured approximately 140 acres of farmland with nearly 110 acres in the final stages of settlement.



Upon settlement of these farms the township will have successfully preserved nearly 400 acres of farmland that will not be available for development.

The township has been working on revising its 1995 Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan since late 2002. The plan revision should meet the requirements of the Montgomery County Open Space funding and will be key to assisting the township in securing open space grant funding through the recently approved Growing Greener referendum approved in Montgomery County. The township expects to be eligible for nearly \$1.2 million in grant funding during the first round. The township will cover its open space success and future opportunities in the 2004 summer edition of *FranTalk*.

# Time to Mow

For nearly 50 years Franconia Township has regulated the appearance of all properties in the township. In order to help keep Franconia looking beautiful it is the responsibility of residents and business owners to keep their lawns mowed. Please remember to keep grass and weeds mowed less than 12 inches high.

Franconia Township's Ordinance No. 12 requires all township property owners to prevent the uncultivated growth of weeds or harmful plants and to keep ground-cover vegetation under one-foot high.

Failure to comply with a township ordinance will result in a code violation notice followed by a fine or legal action. For more information on township codes please visit our website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org).



# EventsCalendar

April 18 - May 9

## NPWA Fire Hydrant Flushing

**WHEN:** 8:00 P.M. - 4:00 A.M.

**WHERE:** Throughout Franconia Township

Annual inspection and flushing of fire hydrants increase public safety by insuring that hydrants will function when necessary. Flushing of hydrants also improves water quality. Flushing will be done at night between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 4:00 A.M. As a result of this procedure, some customers may notice a minor discoloration in the water and/or lower than normal water pressure. If discoloration occurs, run the cold water for a few minutes. If the water does not clear up, turn off the water for 10 to 20 minutes and try the procedure again. If problems persist, customers should contact the Authority office at (215) 855-3617, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Saturday, May 1

## Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**WHEN:** 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** Green Lane Park

**Deep Creek Lake Tennis Court Parking Lot  
Green Lane Road (off of Rt. 29  
in Upper Frederick Twp)**

Household waste can harm the environment when not disposed of properly. Montgomery County will be holding its annual household hazardous waste collection day where you can safely dispose the hazardous materials your household may acquire. Acceptable items include:

- Auto Products (not tires)
- Household cleaners
- Paint products (not latex)
- Pool cleaners
- Lighter fluid

\*Please bring the products in their original containers, keeping all lids tight. Wrap leaky containers in newspaper and a plastic bag. For more information please call (610) 278-3618.

Saturday, May 8

## Fishing Derby

**WHEN:** 9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

**WHERE:** Branchwood Park, Camp Road (Morwood, PA)

State Representative Robert W. Godshall and the Franconia Park & Recreation Commission will be sponsoring the 13th Annual Youth Fishing Derby this spring. All youths up to age 12 may come out and join the fishing contest. There will be refreshments and prizes!



Saturday, May 15

## Police Building Dedication Ceremony

**WHEN:** 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** New Police Building  
671 Allentown Road

**(adjacent to the administrative offices)**

The new Franconia Township Police Building will be officially dedicated in a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 15th. The date coincides with the National Law Enforcement Memorial Day Commemoration. Township residents are encouraged to come to the open house and tour the new facility.

Saturday, May 22

## Franconia Township Clean-Up Day

**WHEN:** 7:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

**WHERE:** J.P. Mascaro and Sons Transfer Station

**Lower and Wile Roads**

The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors have designated Saturday, May 22nd 2004 as Clean Up Day. Any Franconia resident may dispose of normal household trash at the J.P. Mascaro and Sons Inc. Transfer Station located on Lower and Wile Roads. Prior registration is required and can be done in person at the Franconia Township Municipal Building located at 671 Allentown Road between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Normal household trash may include:

- Old appliances and "white goods" (i.e. old dishwasher, washing machine)
- Refrigerators or freezers (only with condenser and coils removed)
- Construction debris
- Grass clippings
- Motor oil
- Tires
- Paint

Hazardous materials and car parts will not be accepted!

Saturday, June 19

## Rabies Clinic

**WHEN:** 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

**WHERE:** Old Lower Salford Township Building at the Roth Park Pavilion on Alumni Avenue (off of Main Street), Harleysville

The Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) requires all cats, dogs and ferrets to be vaccinated against rabies. To make this task easy, the MCHD provides shots that give three-year protection at locations throughout Montgomery County. This year you can take your pet to Harleysville. The shots cost \$8.00 and all animals must be leashed or in an approved carrier. 🌻

## Act 537 Approval and Sewer Management Plan

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) recently received its review comments from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding its September 2003 submission of the revised Act 537 plan. The BOS have addressed the comments from DEP and plan to re-submit their plan by early summer. In conjunction with the 537 Plan Revision, a major component of the plan is a Sewer Management Plan (SMP).

Schoor DePalma Engineers will serve, as the township Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) during the study and will manage the SMP. Efforts will be made to educate property owners, that have on-lot sewage disposal systems (OLDS), how to maintain these systems and explore options to correct existing OLDS that may be malfunctioning. It is expected that the SMP analysis will take approximately 36 months to complete its study. 🌹

## Blowing in the Wind

Please be sure that your trash container is not overflowing when you set it out on trash day. As the wind blows pieces of paper and cardboard fall out of the trash container and begin blowing throughout the neighborhood. Generally the winds are blowing from the west and northwest and it is very common to see trash in the field along 113 between the Family Heritage Restaurant and Meetinghouse Road. Several other areas where trash is often visible are along Mininger Road, which is backed up against Turnberry Way, and Indian Creek Road next to the Kingscote development. Making sure the trash is in trash bags before putting it in the trash receptacle will help contain the trash. If all of your trash does not fit in the container then simply tie the bags together alongside of your container. Please make sure your trash is secure! 🌹

## New Sanitary Sewer Pump Station

In conjunction with an approved land development plan known as Indian Valley Greenes, a new pump station (PS) will be constructed at Godshall and Indian Creek roads. This new PS will allow the Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) to eventually eliminate two existing PS that are the oldest in the sanitary sewer system. It is anticipated that the new PS will help to reduce some Infiltration & Inflow (I&I) problems and should operate with better efficiency. The new pump station is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2004. 🌹

## Above Ground Swimming Pool Regulations

With a new interest in “blue blow-up” aboveground swimming pools, the township would like to remind residents of our aboveground swimming pool regulations.

- **All aboveground swimming pools 24” to 52” high require a building permit, which are available at the township municipal building during regular business hours.**
- **Swimming pools less than 24” high (i.e., kiddie-pools) do not require a permit, but must be emptied when not in use, unless it is in a fenced-in area.**
- **Aboveground swimming pools 48” and higher, with rigid sides and rims, do not require fencing.**

Since, “blue blow-up” swimming pools do not have rigid sides and rims, the township requires these and similar swimming pools to be in a fenced-in area.

Please contact the township Code Enforcement Department at (215) 723-1137 for any questions regarding swimming pool permits. 🌹

## Franconia Sewer Authority Bids Farewell to 38-Year Member

Hats off to Jack D. Wetzel who served on the Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) since its inception in 1965. Mr. Wetzel served as the FSA secretary during his tenure and his services will be dearly missed by the FSA and township. Jack watched a lot of changes during his years of service and commented that there were good and bad during his appointment, but that he really enjoyed being a member of the FSA and appreciated the opportunity to serve. His fellow FSA members will miss Jack and his wealth of knowledge that he brought to each meeting. Mr. Wetzel hopes that the FSA is successful in working with the township in its efforts to address current and future sanitary sewer needs throughout the township. Thank you Jack for your dedication! 🌹



## Land Development / Subdivisions

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Indian Valley Greens:** *Grosse & Quade is approved to construct an older adult community consisting of 96-units — Bergey Road*
- **Harrington Village:** *W.B. Homes Inc. is approved to construct an older adult community consisting of 120-units — Leidy Road*

The following land developments have received preliminary approval:

- **Club View at Indian Valley:** *W.B. Homes Inc., 22-unit single-family dwellings — Godshall & Indian Creek Roads*
- **Knight's Crest:** *W.B. Homes Inc., 10-unit single-family dwellings — Allentown & Mininger Roads*
- **Belmont Estates:** *T.H. Properties, 49-unit single-family dwellings — Bergey Road*

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

- **Avalon:** *T.H. Properties, 62-unit single-family dwellings — Halteman Road*
- **Penn View Tract Subdivision:** *13-lot subdivision — Reliance Road*
- **Freed Tract Subdivision:** *1-lot subdivision — Lower Road*



## Park & Recreation Garden Club

The Park and Recreation Board is seeking “green-thumb” volunteers to enhance our parks with lavish gardens. All avid gardeners (or beginners) please contact Jamie Brophy at 215-723-1137 to sign up. 🌸

## Volunteer Applications Available

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 their decision making process. Support your township by being a volunteer! 🌸

## Franconia Officers Receive Commendations

The Franconia Township Police Department honored members of the department for their achievements during the year 2003. Chief of Police Joseph Kozeniewski presented the commendations at the department dinner on December 16, 2003. As part of a new initiative, each officer was presented with honor bars to wear above their uniform badges. The awards presented were:

**Sergeant Jeffery C. Gower** and **Officer Glenn H. Kranich** were recognized for attaining perfect attendance for the year.

Unit Citations were presented to **Sergeant Gower** and **Officer Eric Frary** for their persistence in pursuing a nighttime house burglar in September 2003. They developed a suspect in the case and conducted surveillance for several weeks with members of the Lower Salford Township Police Department. They were able to apprehend a male subject who admitted to committing break-ins of five occupied homes.

**Officers Tim Boyle** and **Steve Rinker** were the recipients of a Unit Citation for outstanding investigative work on March 19, 2003. Both officers responded to a disturbance call at a home and pursued a 19-year-old male on foot to a nearby home after he reportedly left while armed with a handgun. The male broke into the home and aimed the weapon at the officers. The male was wounded by police and was hospitalized. Officers Boyle and Rinker were commended for their immediate attention to detail in securing the scene and preserving valuable evidence.

The following officers received commendations for outstanding performance while engaged in activities in the township with the Montgomery County Bureau of Narcotics Investigations Task Force:

**Glenn Kranich**

**Eric Frary**

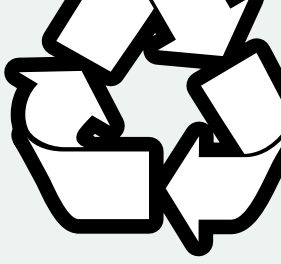
**Stephen Rinker**

**Jeffery Gower**

**George Moyer**

All five officers have been very proactive in investigating and arresting persons who are purchasing and selling illegal controlled substances in the township. 🌸

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Remember that taking the time to recycle helps to improve the land, air, water, and finances of Franconia Township. Simply sort plastics, aluminum, glass, and bi-metallic cans and place in a recycling bin. News-print and other paper must be bagged separately. Make sure the cans and bottles are washed out and the lids have been removed and discarded in the regular trash. Then place the recyclables out on the curb for your private waste hauler to pick up on trash day. Free recycle bins are available at the Township Office located on Allentown Road. Additional recyclables can be dropped off at the Public Works Building located at 480 Indian Creek Road. There is one dumpster for glass (clear, brown, and green) and a second dumpster for aluminum cans only. Cardboard may be placed in a third dumpster. Please open and flatten boxes before placing in dumpster. Paper and plastic cannot be recycled at the Public Works Building. If you are interested in obtaining more information about recycling please contact your local private hauler. 🌱

## 2004 Planned Road Projects

Public Works Director, Paul R. Nice, has listed his slated road projects for 2004. They include the following:

**Godshall and 113 (Harleysville Pike)** – Completion of the intersection realignment that began in 2003 with new stormwater piping and the reduction of a hump in the road. Final construction is expected to begin by summer.

**Godshall Road (Penn View Christian School)** – Final wearing is expected to be applied before August 2004. This is the completion of a joint cooperation projection that resulted in the widening; hump removal and new stormwater piping from Delp Road to Homestead Avenue.

**Cowpath Road** – A complete overlay is planned beginning at W. Broad to Township Line.

**Indian Creek Road** – Completion of road widening and cul-de-sac construction in conjunction with a 6-lot single-family land development referred to as Creekside Meadows.

**Residential Roads** – Memory Lane; Harvest Drive; Pear Tree Circle; 4th Street; Melvin Road and Reliance Road. The township will notify all affected properties prior to any work on these roads scheduled for 2004. 🌱

**FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP**  
671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128  
Franconia PA 18924  
(215) 723-1137  
[www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org)

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
Steven P. Barndt, *Chairman*  
Grey R. Godshall, *1st Vice Chairman*  
W. Keith Freed, *2nd Vice Chairman*  
Drew Darrah  
Curtis N. Kratz

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER**  
Kevin D. Bayer

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Administration (215) 723-6778  
Emergency 9-1-1 or (215) 723-6777

Joseph S. Kozeniewski, *Chief*  
Jeffrey C. Gower, *Sergeant / Patrol*  
David A. Klepfer, *D.A.R.E. / School Resource Officer*

**BUILDING / PLUMBING INSPECTION**  
(215) 723-1137  
Roger M. Koffel, *Code Enforcement Officer*

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**  
(215) 723-1153  
Paul R. Nice, *Public Works Director*



Intersection realignment work being done at Godshall Road and Route 113.

**Franconia Township**  
671 Allentown Road  
P.O. Box 128  
Franconia PA 18924



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