

FrancoTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Spring 2012



PHOTO BY GEOFF PATTON, THE REPORTER

Police Officer Albert Gesullo Retires

After 35 years of dedicated public service, Officer Albert W. Gesullo has retired. Al began his public safety career in 1974 with the Lower Providence Fire Company. In 1982 Al was hired as a part-time patrol officer for Franconia Township. He served the community in this capacity until he was hired as a full-time officer on January 1, 1987. During his 30-year career as a police officer at the Franconia Township Police Department, Officer Gesullo accomplished many things. For example, he was involved with advanced accident investigations, accident reconstruction, and on-scene accident and vehicular homicide investigations. He was the CPR and First Aid Instructor for the department and a member of the department's Highway Safety Unit. He also served as a War-rant Officer, Field Training Officer, and a Vehicle Maintenance Officer throughout the course of his career. He was also the recipient of many distinguished commendations such as, the 2001 Law and Order Magazine AED Success Club Award, five unit citations, and the North Penn Chamber of Commerce Officer of the Year in 1997 among many others.

The Franconia Township Police Department held a special retirement dinner to celebrate Officer Gesullo's career on November 18th, 2011. Family, friends and members from all walks of emergency services came to congratulate and celebrate with Al. On behalf of the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors, Franconia Township Administration and Public Works Departments, and of course, the Franconia Township Police Department, we wish Al and his wife, Carol, much happiness in his retirement. 🌸

Officer Albert Gesullo's last ride.

Franconia Township Police Department Members Receive Commendations

Members of the police department were recognized for their accomplishments during 2011. The commendations were presented by Chief Joseph S. Kozeniewski at the annual department dinner in December. The following department members were honored:

UNIT CITATIONS

1) Sergeant Jeffery Gower, Corporal Ed Hall, Officers Kurt DeForrest and Wayne Pursell were commended for their valuable assistance to the Souderton Police Department with the initial search and subsequent investigation of a murder that occurred in May.

2) The following officers participated in successfully removing an armed man from a home on July 4th after he had barricaded himself:

- ~ Sergeant Jeffery Gower
- ~ Officer Chris Hinnershitz
- ~ Officer Eric Frary
- ~ Officer Albert Gesullo

3) On Sunday, October 19th, Officers Eric Frary and Glenn Kranich launched a day-long investigation that led to the arrest of a woman and man who were responsible for the theft of cash from the safe of a local business.

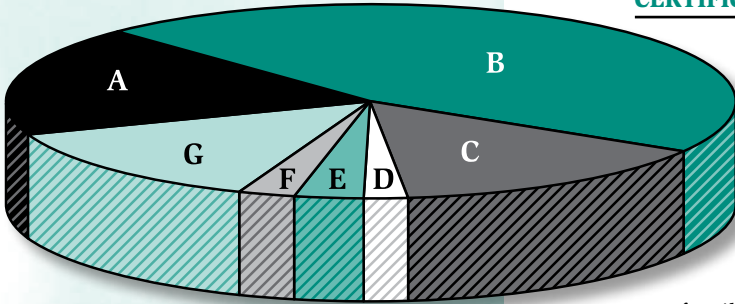
(cont. on p. 2)

Chairman Selected by the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Steven P. Barndt was re-elected Chairman of the Board at their annual organizational meeting on January 3, 2012. Grey R. Godshall was re-elected 1st Vice-Chairman and W. Keith Freed was re-elected 2nd Vice-Chairman with Supervisors Drew Darrah and Curtis N. Kratz completing the board's composition. 🌸

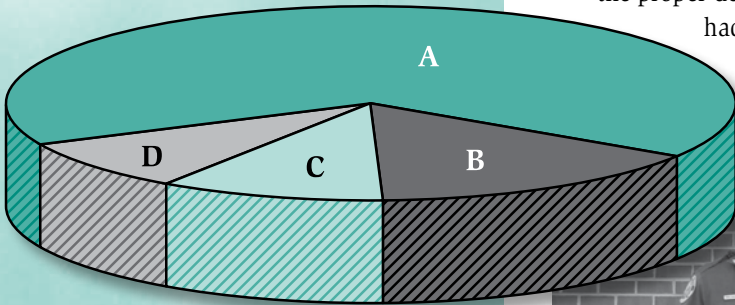
2012 Township Budget Approval

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$6.05 million 2012 General Fund Budget. The general purpose millage rate (1.00) was increased from the previous year (.900). The fire (.125) and library (.165) support remained unchanged. The township 2012 millage rate was set at 1.290.



Expenses are allocated to the following departments:

- A) Administration: \$1,106,760
- B) Police/Fire Protection: \$2,773,875
- C) Public Works: \$896,120
- D) Code Enforcement: \$124,552
- E) Recreation: \$175,950
- F) Debt Service: \$150,000
- G) Interfund Transfers: \$828,400



Revenue is from the following sources:

- A) Taxes (Real Estate, EMST, EIT): \$4,007,235
- B) Intergovernmental Revenue: \$922,850
- C) General Government: \$599,702
- D) Operating Transfers: \$525,870

Commendations (cont. from p. 1)

- 4) Detective George Moyer and Officer Steve Cronin were commended for their persistence in solving two home burglaries that had occurred nearly one year prior in May of 2010. They worked with the Philadelphia Police Department in the apprehension of one of the three suspects in the burglaries.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

- 1) Three officers were honored for their great work in the arrest of four teens that had spray painted ethnic slurs on the home of a family in the township. Detective George Moyer, Officer Peter Sandor, and Officer Eric Frary led this investigation.

- 2) Officer Travis Bivighouse went above and beyond what was required to solve a conflict of witness statements in a serious vehicle crash. He collected forensic evidence from the vehicles and sent them to a police laboratory for analysis. By taking the extra time, he was able to make the proper determination of what had actually occurred in the crash.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

- 1) These members of the department were recognized for their team effort and hard work with the expansion of the Annual Franconia Police Food Drive:
 - ~ Janice Froshour, Project Coordinator
 - ~ Pam Paraskewik
 - ~ Sergeant Jeffery Gower
 - ~ Officer Dave Klepfer
 - ~ Officer Albert Gesullo
 - ~ Detective George Moyer

- 2) Corporal Stephen Rinker was honored for his leadership efforts in the creation of the first Citizens Police Academy which was presented in the Fall of 2011.

LIFE SAVING AWARD

- 1) Officers Tim Boyle and James Throop along with Office Joe Rudner from the Souderton Police Department, were able to successfully revive a man with life saving methods just prior to the arrival of EMS.

TACTICAL TEAM AWARD

- 1) Officer Chris Hinnershitz was honored by his peers on the North Penn Tactical Response Team when he received the Tactical Officer of the Year Award. Chris is the Team Leader for the NPTRT. 🌹



Several members of the Franconia Township Police Department display their commendations for 2011. (l to r): Officer Chris Hinnershitz, Police Administrative Assistant Pam Paraskewik, Chief Joe Kozeniewski, Police Administrative Assistant Janice Froshour, retired officer Al Gesullo, Detective George H. Moyer III, and Officer David Klepfer.

Franc Talk Notes

SPRING LEAF COLLECTION –

Curbside leaf collection will be provided through BFI again this Spring. Section 1 of the township will be collected on Thursday, April 12th, 2012 and Section 2 on Friday, April 13th, 2012. Leaves must be placed in the biodegradable bags available free to township residents at the administrative offices located on Allentown Road. Please verify your section when you pick up your leaf bags.

COMPOSTING AGREEMENT –

The Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission is contracted with the Barnside Composting Facility to provide a drop-off location for residents to dispose of yard and leaf waste. Please visit the township website at www.franconiatownship.org for more information on hours of operation and location.

Please visit our website to learn about other recycling opportunities and information through the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission at www.franconia-township.org

REMEMBER TO VOTE – Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Voter registration forms are available at the township building as are absentee ballots. 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

DISCOUNT AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS

– The Park & Recreation Board will be selling discount amusement park tickets again this summer. The tickets usually arrive around Memorial Day and can be purchased at the Township office located on Allentown Road during normal business hours (M-F 8AM-4:30PM). Tickets must be purchased with cash or money order, no checks please!

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!

NOTICE – 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. 🌹

2012 Township Road Construction Projects

The following is a list of scheduled road projects for the upcoming season.

- Crack-Sealing; Chip-Sealing; Final Wearing- Belmont Estates Phase 2: Elmwood Lane
- Chip-Seal Projects- Colonial Avenue; Cowpath Road; Halteman Road; Keller Creamery Road; Lower Road to Green Street; Morwood Road to Route 113; Schoolhouse to Allentown Road
- Erie Avenue Road Improvements will be scheduled pending finalization of project plans 🌹

Police Notes

2012 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

– Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 6 - 9PM at the Franconia Community Park. See Facebook.com/FranconiaPolice or FranconiaPolice.org for more details!

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY ANNUAL

– Due to great attendance and amazing feedback, the Franconia Twp. Police Department will be hosting the Citizen's Police Academy annually! This year's class will begin on September 26, 2012 and will run for 8 weeks each Wednesday from 6:30 - 9PM. Qualifications: All applicants must be 18 years of age, live or work in the Indian Valley, and have no felony convictions. All applicants will be subject to a criminal background check. The application is due by 4PM on Friday, July 13, 2012. See our website or Facebook for the application or email us at franconiapolicecpa@yahoo.com.


FACEBOOK – For up-to-date police information, tips, local crime information, and news, "like" us on Facebook @ Facebook.com/FranconiaPolice. 🌹

FEMA Floodplain Map Modernization Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of updating their floodplain maps. The maps are currently in the public comment period with an adoption date still unknown. The intent is for the new maps to go into effect in 2013. The maps are being updated and converted from paper versions to electronic versions with a much more accurate base map and more clearly defined flood zone areas. Due to the new mapping technologies that improve the accuracy of the depicted floodplains, some areas may have changed from how they are shown on the maps today. The main purpose of these maps are to designate areas within the 100-year floodplain, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), as this is the determining factor as to whether or not a particular property

requires flood insurance. Therefore, it is important to review the maps in order to see if your property needs flood insurance or if it no longer requires coverage due to changes on the revised maps.

As explained by the Montgomery County Planning Commission in their model floodplain ordinance, "FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), established by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. The NFIP enables property owners in participating communities to purchase flood insurance, while requiring State and local governments to enforce floodplain management ordinances. As part of the program, FEMA is responsible for producing the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)." FEMA is the primary provider of flood damage insurance and a property's

location in relation to a floodplain determines what level of protection a property owner will need. The costs of insurance coverage will rise once the new maps are officially adopted. FEMA is urging residents to go into their Township offices and review the proposed maps in order to see if their property will be impacted by the map revision. If a property is impacted then the individual property owners will need to seek additional information regarding the NFIP from FEMA directly. For additional information residents are encouraged to visit the FEMA website at www.fema.gov or contact Kristina Henderson at the Montgomery County Conservation District (610-489-4506) or Drew Shaw at the Montgomery County Planning Commission (610-278-3754). 


Summer Sports Camp Offered

This summer the Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board will be offering a summer sports camp! The pilot program will be the first type of this nature offered through the board, and they are excited about the opportunity and look forward to a successful week. The program will offer a variety of sports such as tennis, ultimate Frisbee, touch football, volleyball, and kickball with other fun games and activities incorporated into the daily agenda. The purpose of the camp is to have fun, promote health and fitness, and encourage positive interaction among campers as they participate in several athletic activities.

The hired professional who will facilitate the camp is Steve Wherry. Mr. Wherry is extremely excited about being involved in a multi-sports camp as he personally loves playing many different sports. A graduate of Drexel University, he was the 1983 IFA Athlete of the Year, competing in football, softball, tennis, volleyball, basketball and ping pong. A certified Ultimate Frisbee instructor through USA Ultimate, Steve has been the head coach of the North Penn Ultimate Frisbee team for several years. Steve is the former captain of a Philadelphia-based Ultimate Frisbee team, which won the 2002 National Championships as well as being a finalist in the 2006


World Championships. A certified tennis instructor through Professional Tennis Registry, Steve also runs the Lansdale Elite Tennis program. A former two-time MVP for CB West, Steve won various tennis tournaments locally including a Bux-Mont league championship. Mr. Wherry's primary goal for the Franconia Sports Camp is making the camp fun for everyone, so they can have a great time making friends while playing several different sports. Steve will be assisted by other coaches and staff during the camp.

The camp will be held at the Franconia Community Park located on Allentown Road from Monday, June 18th, 2012 through Thursday, June 21st, 2012

beginning at 9:00AM and ending at 12:30PM. The camp is open to children ages 7 to 14 years. The cost for the camp is \$100.00 per child. Pre-registration is required and can be done so in person beginning May 1st, 2012 at the Franconia Township Administration Office located at 671 Allentown Road. The office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM. Flyers will be distributed in the schools located within the Souderton Area School District and a registration form will be included and can be mailed in to the Township for inclusion on the registration list. There will be a maximum of 24 campers permitted into the program. We hope you will come out and join the fun this summer! 

FSA Now Accepting On-line Payments

The Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) now accepts on-line payments for sewer service. The FSA has contracted with a third party to offer on-line bill paying. The third party accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards as well as eChecks. For more information or to pay your bill on line please visit our website at www.franconiatownship.org and click on "sewer authority" on the left-hand side and then once you are redirected to the FSA page please select the "On-Line Payments" option located on the left-hand side of the screen.

Attention public sewer customers: Please remember to update our new mailing address with your financial institutions that provide automatic bill payment for you!! Our correct address is: 671 Allentown Road, Telford, PA 18969-2205. 

Events Calendar

Saturday, April 7, 2012

Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

WHEN: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

WHERE: North Penn High School

The MONTCO Recycling Commission will be holding a series of household hazardous waste collection programs throughout the county. Locally, a collection will be held at North Penn High School on Saturday, April 7th, 2012. Please view our website at www.franconiatownship.org for a list of acceptable items and additional collection dates. For more information please contact the county at 610-278-3168.

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Montgomery County Electronic Collection Program

WHEN: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

WHERE: Indian Valley Middle School

The MONTCO Recycling Commission will be holding a series of electronics waste collection programs throughout the county. Locally, a collection will be held at the Indian Valley Middle School on Saturday, April 21st, 2012. Please visit our website at www.franconiatownship.org for a list of acceptable items and additional collection dates. For more information please contact the county at 610-278-3168.

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Fishing Derby

WHEN: 9:00AM - 11:30AM

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

State Representative Robert W. Godshall and the Franconia Park & Recreation Commission will be sponsoring the 21st 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 19, 2012

Franconia Township Clean-Up Day

WHEN: 7:00AM - 12:00PM

WHERE: J.P. Mascaro & Sons Transfer Station Lower & Wile Roads

Franconia Township has designated Saturday, May 19th, 2012 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 beginning Friday, April 27th in person at the Franconia Township Municipal Building located at 671 Allentown Road between the hours of 8:00AM to 4:30PM. Registration is first come first served and spaces will be limited. 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 and hazardous materials and car parts will not be accepted!

June 18-21, 2012 (rain date 6/22)

Youth Sports Camp

WHEN: 9:00AM - 12:30PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board will be providing a youth sports camp this summer! The camp will be for children ages 7-14 years old. Skilled instruction will be provided by Steve Wherry and his staff. The camp will consist of various sports and activities with a main focus on tennis and ultimate Frisbee. The cost of the camp is \$100.00 per person. If you are interested please register at the Township Office beginning May 1st, 2012 and check out our website for additional information at www.franconiatownship.org.

**June 25-28, 2012 (rain date 6/29)
July 9-12, 2012 (rain date 7/13)
July 30 - Aug. 2, 2012 (rain date 8/3)**
Youth Tennis Clinic

WHEN:

June Session: 9:30AM - 12:30PM

July Sessions: 9:30AM - 12:30PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park Tennis Court

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board will be providing a youth tennis clinic this summer! The clinic will be for children age 6-12 years old. Skilled instruction will be provided by Monica Bach. The cost of the clinic is \$85.00 per person. If you are interested in developing your tennis skills this is the clinic for you! Just bring a tennis racket and join in on the fun! Please check in with the township or the website to get an updated status on this program along with the dates and time of the clinic.

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Almost Fab Concert in the Park

WHEN: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board is please to announce that they will be offering a change in the summer concert this year. A Beatles cover band named Almost Fab will be performing on July 25th, 2012. Please come out and join us on the lawn of the Franconia Community Park. There will be plenty of music, food, and fun!

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

National Night Out Against Crime

WHEN: 6:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park (Rain Date: Wed., August 8, 2012)

The Franconia Township Police Department will be hosting its 16th Annual Night Out Against Crime celebration. This is an annual worldwide event in which law enforcement agencies, local officials, local businesses, and citizens get together to increase anti-crime awareness and strengthen community partnerships. It will be a fun filled family night with emergency equipment demonstrations, car show, give-aways, basket raffle, food and refreshments. For more information visit the police website. If your organization would like to participate, please contact Janice Froshour at 215-723-6777.

Stormwater & You Too!

In the last issue of FrancTalk we noted the expectation of new Stormwater Management Rules that Franconia and other municipalities will be required to follow under the Federal Clean Water Act. These were published in the PA Bulletin last December, and are now the required outline for future Township efforts for compliance with the Federal program. The Township will need to file a 'Notice of Intent', acknowledging renewal of our permit to discharge our municipal storm water into the 'Waters of the Commonwealth'. This notice, a formal prescribed application process is a further progression of the growing mandate to further improve our Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) for cleaner watersheds. It must be filed by September 17 this year with additional features that include stricter controls over Land Development Plans and Grading Permits, Operation and Maintenance Agreements between property owners and the Township, as well as 'Best Management Practices' decreasing the amount of sediment and, in some watersheds, nutrients (Phosphorous), entering the Commonwealth's streams and rivers. The later will require that the Township provide a 'Strategy' of measures to be implemented with the NOI, followed within the following year of design plans of those measures selected to be undertaken. Actual installation is required to begin by year 3 of

this 5 year permit cycle. Where a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) has been allocated for water courses deemed 'impaired' for their 'designated' uses, usually excess sediments and nutrients, the Plans are to be drawn to show eventually that the SWMP selected measures meeting allocated reductions within several permit cycles.

What will be the measures to be implemented? That is the challenge now before the Board and Staff of the Township. A MS4 Committee, which includes Supervisors, The Manager and Assistant Manager, Public Works Director, Township Engineer, Specialized Environmental Consultants and a citizen representative, is charged with collecting and digesting the vast amount of information that is available. It has been actively meeting over the last several years providing a forum for receiving activity reports on the Township's participation in the Pennsylvania Stormwater Coalition (an outgrowth of the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities) as well as updates from Special Legal Counsel on aspects of the regulatory compliance and the developing body of science and practice as learned at National Conferences, workshops and seminars held by organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the American Water Resources Association, the Water Environment Federation and our local Association of

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road
Telford PA 18969-2205
(215) 723-1137
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) 723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1

Joseph S. Kozeniewski, *Chief*
Jeffrey C. Gower, *Sergeant / Patrol*

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

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

Conservation Districts.

Property owners, farmers and businesses of the Township may be assured that the best techniques will be studied and recommended to the Board by the committee. Cost considerations, including staff resources of Township Administration and Public Works, time of implementation for various methods chosen, and mechanisms to provide funding that is both efficient and effective, are all before your Board and the Committee. Of course, the program will also require 'You Too' for it to be most effective - details of which will be subjects of future 'FrancTalk'. Much to be done by all, a true community endeavor. 

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email or view it on the township website rather than receive a paper copy please contact the township office to sign-up and remove your name from the mailing list.

Franconia Township
671 Allentown Road
Telford PA 18969-2205



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