

Franc Talk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Spring 2013



Sergeant Jeffrey C. Gower

Sergeant Gower Retires

On December 31, 2012, Sergeant Jeffrey C. Gower retired from the Franconia Township Police Department, after dedicating his career to public safety for over 28 years. Sgt. Gower graduated from the Montgomery Co. Community College Municipal Police Officers' Training Academy in 1984, and worked part time at Lansdale Police Department after graduation. He began working at Franconia Township Police Department as a part time officer in August of 1985, and in April 1987 he became full time. Jeff was promoted to the position of Sergeant in January of 2000, and he remained in this position until his retirement.

During his 27 year career at the Franconia Township Police Department, he had many career achievements, including special assignments, and was awarded numerous commendations. Sgt. Gower was a sniper for the North Penn Tactical Response Team, the Department Coordinator for the North Penn DUI Task Force, a member of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Municipal Drug Task Force, and the Rapid Response Training Coordinator for an Active Shooter at the Souderton Area High School prior to the opening of the new school building.

On January 18, 2013 the Franconia Township Police Department held a special retirement dinner to celebrate Sgt. Gower's distinguished career and accomplishments. Family, friends and members of local emergency service agencies came together to congratulate him.

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 Jeff and his wife, Joyce, much happiness in his retirement. 🌸



Sergeant Gower and his grandson at the retirement dinner.

Franc Talk Notes

REMEMBER TO VOTE - Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on Tuesday, May 21st, 2013. 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

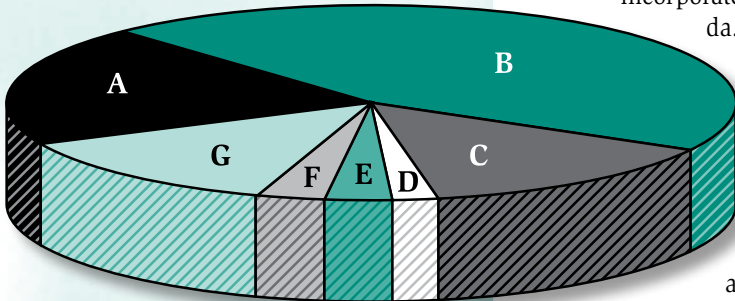
(cont. on p. 4)

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 7, 2013. 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. 🌸

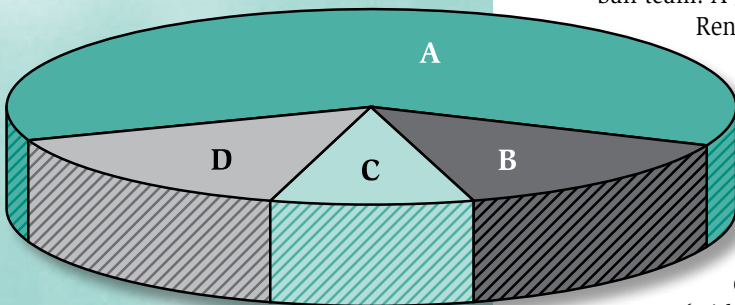
2013 Township Budget Approval

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$6.37 million 2013 General Fund Budget. The general purpose millage rate (1.00) was unchanged from the previous year. The fire (.125) and library (.165) support were increased to (.150) and (.248) respectively. The township 2013 millage rate was set at 1.398.



Expenses are allocated to the following departments:

- A) Administration: \$1,272,950**
- B) Police/Fire Protection: \$2,866,500**
- C) Public Works: \$918,850**
- D) Code Enforcement: \$119,200**
- E) Recreation: \$189,900**
- F) Debt Service: \$155,000**
- G) Interfund Transfers: \$851,500**



Revenue is from the following sources:

- A) Taxes (Real Estate, EMST, EIT): \$3,951,600**
- B) Intergovernmental Revenue: \$882,300**
- C) General Government: \$567,700**
- D) Operating Transfers: \$972,300**

Parks & Rec Board - Summer Sports Camp

This summer the Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board will continue offering a Summer Sports Camp! Last year was the first year of this program, and the board is excited that this one week program will continue again this year. 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 camp directors are Steve Wherry, Renee DiDomizio, and Dave Baer. Last year some background information was provided on Mr. Wherry, and this year we're highlighting Renee DiDomizio's background. Renee is extremely excited about being involved in a multi-sports camp as she personally loves playing many different sports, as she participated on her high school's basketball, golf and softball teams. In fact, Mrs. DiDomizio is a Hall of Fame inductee as a starting shooting guard on her championship high school basketball team. A graduate of Kutztown, Renee is a former number one (#1) singles tennis player for Kutztown University, has won various local tennis tournaments, and has taught tennis extensively. She currently co-directs (with Steve Wherry) the Lansdale Elite Tennis program, and is a former coach of the North Penn High School Junior Varsity Girls tennis team. Renee has many years of past experience running tennis camps and clinics for local municipalities.

Since this summer's camp also includes fun activities such as face painting, Renee's art background comes in handy. Mrs. DiDomizio has been an Art teacher for over 25 years in the North Penn School District, is a judge at the annual Lansdale Arts Festival, and has been an award winner in other art shows. For those interested, Renee also currently offers classes for the traditional Psyanky egg-decoration art form through the Lansdale Borough Parks & Recreation Department.

The Summer Sports Camp will be held at the Franconia Community Park located on Allentown Road from Monday, June 24th, 2013 through Thursday, June 27th, 2013 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, 2013 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 28 campers permitted into the program. We hope you will come out and join the fun this summer!

Camp Road Bridge Replacement Project

PennDot will be moving forward with the Camp Road Bridge replacement this year. PennDot and their contractor held a pre-construction meeting that was attended by the Franconia Township Engineer and the Public Works Director in December, 2012. According to the information provided in that meeting, the project was awarded on December 6th, 2012 to Road-Con which is a contractor out of the West Chester, PA area. A notice to proceed was issued on January 14th, 2013. The bridge demolition has begun. The demolition portion will be complete by May, 2013. The bridge horizontal location is almost identical to its present location. The new bridge will have two 11' travel lanes and a 4' shoulder on each side. There will only be one bridge pier in the creek, therefore the water movement should be improved. Plan sets are available upon advance notice at the Township Office. The project is anticipated to be completed in late November, 2013.

Recycling in Franconia Township

Franconia Township requires recycling by all entities existing within the municipality. According to Chapter 115, Article I, Section 115-1 through 115-13 of the Franconia Township Codebook, all homes, apartments and other residential establishments are required to separate and recycle the following: clear glass, colored glass, newsprint (including newspaper inserts, junk mail and telephone books), aluminum cans, steel cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics and No. 2 HDPE plastics. Commercial establishments are required to separate and recycle the following: corrugated paper, high-grade office paper, aluminum cans and yard waste. Hospitality establishments, which include restaurants and taverns, shall be required to separate and recycle the following: cardboard, office paper, newspaper (including newspaper inserts, junk mail and telephone books), aluminum cans, steel cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics and No. 2 HDPE plastics. Also, recycling containers shall be provided at all community events attended by 200 or more people. Recycling bins are available for all residents at the Township Building located on Allentown Road. 🌹



Park & Recreation: Memorial Tree Program

For the past few months the Franconia Township Parks and Recreation Board has been developing a memorial tree program. The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors formally endorsed the program at their meeting held Tuesday, February 19th, 2013. Details regarding this program are available at the Administrative Office located at 671 Allentown Road or on our website at www.franconiatownship.org.

The Memorial Tree Program is a program in which a resident can purchase a commemorative tree for a loved one who has passed. An interested resident would simply complete the application form and submit it to the Assistant Township Manager for review and approval. The cost of the tree is \$500.00 and that includes the tree, installation, engraved plaque, and plaque setting. The Park and Recreation Board, with the help of the Public Works Director and local landscaper, compiled a list of trees available through the program. These trees are the Kwanzon Cherry, Cleveland Select Pear, Red Sunset Maple, and the Pin Oak. The trees will be planted within the parks, open space areas, and along trails within the Township, the actual location will ultimately be determined by the Public Works Director and installed by a landscaper of his choosing. The form will include purchasers contact information, tree selection, location, and sentiment on plaque. Payment in full is due prior to the purchase of a tree. Tree planning will occur twice a year in accordance with the Public Works Department's maintenance schedule. 🌹

Recycling Electronic Devices: It's the Law

The Pennsylvania Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) requires that consumers and businesses must recycle covered electronics such as computers, computer monitors, laptops, televisions, tablets, and computer peripherals (printers, keyboards, mouse devices, etc.) as of January 24, 2013. Consumers and businesses will no longer be able to throw away their covered electronic devices with their curbside trash.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, electronic waste is the fastest growing source of municipal solid waste. Recycling will reduce our need for landfills and incineration. Many electronic devices contain valuable metals such as gold, silver and platinum and base metals like copper, iron and aluminum that can be separated and reused in new products.

Haulers will no longer take covered electronic devices. Manufacturers are required to provide for the collection of covered electronic devices. This is offered to consumers at no cost. Manufacturers must work with an electronics recycler that is properly permitted and certified to handle and process electronic waste. Some of the firms that accept recycled electronic devices are Best Buy, Home Depot, and Staples.

Consumers can find more information on registered manufacturers and where to recycle their covered devices at www.dep.state.pa.us, or through the DEP Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242. To find firms that accept and recycle electronic devices in your area, go to www.1800recycling.com. 🌹

Erie Avenue Reconstruction Project

The Franconia Township Public Works Department (FTPWD) will complete the Erie Road Reconstruction Project this summer. The reconstruction project began when the North Penn Water Authority installed a new ductile iron main and replaced all of the service connections to the existing homes. The Township was then able to begin their portion of the project in July of 2012. The FTPWD installed new storm drainage, curbing and sidewalk stone base, and paving which was all part of phase one of the project.

This year the work will begin earlier in the summer and the project will be completed. The work scheduled will include the completion of the storm drainage installation all the way up to Cowpath Road. Following the storm drainage installation, the curb and sidewalk and new roadway will be put in place and that will conclude the project.

Other Road Projects:

- All storm water road crossings replaced on High Street and Homestead Avenue
- Milling and paving of both High Street and Homestead Avenue are scheduled this spring. 🌸



This well was unearthed during the Erie Road construction.



The Franconia Township Public Works Department works on Erie Road.

Frank Talk Notes (cont. from p. 1)

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. 🌸

Events Calendar

Saturday, May 4, 2013

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 22nd 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 18, 2013

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 18th, 2013 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 19th 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!

Saturday, June 8, 2013

Electronic Collection Program

WHEN: TBD

WHERE: Lower Salford Twp. Bldg. 379 Main St., Harleysville

Franconia Township is joining forces with Hatfield Township and Lower Salford Township to offer an electronics disposal event for area residents. The collection will be held at the Lower Salford Township

Building located at 379 Main Street in Harleysville. The time of the event has not yet been determined. We will post the most updated information, pertaining to the collection as it becomes available, to our website at www.franconiatownship.org.

Mon.-Thu., June 24-27, 2013

Youth Sports Camp

WHEN: 9:00AM - 12:30PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

RAIN DATE: Fri., June 28, 2013

The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board will be providing a youth sports camp again 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, 2013 and check out our website for additional information at www.franconiatownship.org.

Mon.-Thu., June 17-20, 2013

(Rain Date: Fri., June 21, 2013)

Mon.-Thu., July 8-11, 2013

(Rain Date: Fri., July 12, 2013)

Mon.-Thu., July 15-18, 2013

(Rain Date: Fri., July 19, 2013)

Mon.-Thu., July 22-25, 2013

(Rain Date: Fri., July 26, 2013)

Mon.-Thu., July 29-August 1, 2013

(Rain Date: Fri., August 2, 2013)

Mon.-Thu., August 5-8, 2013

(Rain Date: Fri., August 9, 2013)

Youth Tennis Clinic

WHEN: 9:15AM - 12:15PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park Tennis Court

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board will be providing a youth tennis camp again this summer! The camp 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 2013 (Date TBD)

Summer 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 their annual summer concert again this year. The band has not yet been selected and a date has not yet been determined. Please come out and join us on the lawn of the Franconia Community Park. There will be plenty of music, food, and fun!

Monday, August 5, 2013

National Night Out Kick-Off 5K Run

Details will be posted on website and Facebook.

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

National Night Out Against Crime

WHEN: 6:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

RAIN DATE: Wed., August 7, 2013

The Franconia Township Police Department will be hosting its 17th 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.

Sunday, October 13, 2013

3rd Annual Souderton 5-Miler

WHEN: 9:00AM

WHERE: Souderton High School

Will be held on Sunday, October 13 at 9:00AM. This is a unique run along the beautiful roads of Franconia Township to raise money for the Tracy Hottentien Scholarship Fund (which benefits a Souderton High School senior) and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. A 1 mile walk and a kid's fun run will also be held on the school grounds as well. Registration forms will be available at the township.

Stormwater & You Too!

Over the last several years this column has reported on the efforts of your Township local government to comply with Federal and State mandates for cleaner water entering our local streams, lakes and other watercourses; as well as the continuing regulatory changes to this ever evolving program. Managed pursuant to 1987 amendments by Congress to the Clean Water Act, the Federal Program, known as the 'National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System' (NPDES), is administered by the PA Department of Environmental Resources (DEP) under the overview of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Our coverage as an MS4 community (Municipal Separate Stormwater System) to discharge storm water collected along our streets, roads and other township properties has been under the original 'General Permit', issued in March of 2003. Last September, as reported in the last issue of FrancTalk, the Township filed a 'Notice of Intent' for new coverage under an updated DEP Permit Package announced in 2010. This newest form of Storm Water Discharge Permit, set for implementation on March 10, 2013, updates administrative procedures in the detail of our annual report filing, involves Township ordinance enhancements for more thorough development and grading oversight and requires more aggressive actions by the Township to address

historical legacy pollutants that have left local waterways impaired of certain designated uses as defined under the Clean Water Act.

From the beginning of regulation the Township has complied with what are classed as the 'Six Minimum Measures'. More fully described at the EPA and DEP web sites they mandate the township to provide 'Public Education and Outreach'; 'Public Involvement and Participation'; have an 'Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination' program; provide, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Conservation District, 'Construction Site Runoff Control' as well as require 'Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New and Redevelopment'; and for the Public Works Department, have operational standards for 'Pollution Prevention by Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations'. Why these original efforts have been implemented and will continue, of more significance as previously reported, the Township also submitted with the 'Notice of Intent' a 'Strategy' for reducing pollution to those waterways deemed impaired. These waterways within Franconia are the Skippack, Neshaminy and Indian Creek watersheds. The East Branch of the Perkiomen is currently not listed as 'impaired' although environmental studies may result in a change of that designation. These watersheds, as outlined in the strategy, will require

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road
Telford PA 18969-2205
(215) 723-1137
www.franconiatownship.org

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W. Keith Freed, *2nd Vice Chairman*
Drew Darrah
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TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Kevin D. Bayer

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Administration (215) 723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1

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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*

measures including reforestation, riparian buffers along waterways, wetland and other filtering of existing Stormwater discharges as well as land management techniques to control runoff in quantity and quality. A formal design to implement the strategy for each watershed is due within one year of DEP's acquisition of our intent which is anticipated shortly. 

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
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