

franc talk



October 2016

Audit Finds Township In Strong Financial Position

The audit of Franconia's 2015 financial statements found that the Township ended the year in a better financial position than expected.

The General Fund, which supports most of the Township's activities, had a surplus of \$136,088 in 2015, which exceeded a projected surplus of \$18,474.

The Township's auditor, Maillie LLP, issued a clean opinion of the Township's financial statements. The Township is required to have an annual audit.

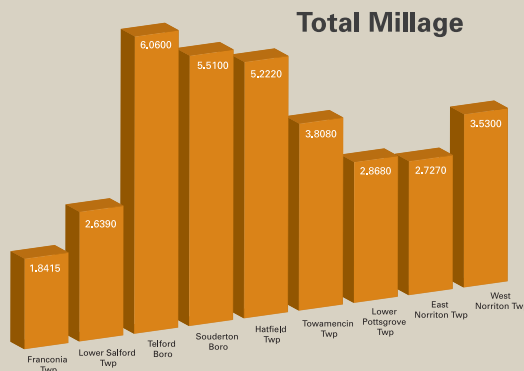
"We are pleased with the results of the audit and will continue to focus on the Township's financial position," said Supervisor Chairman Grey Godshall.

Franconia Named A Safest Place In America

Safewise has named Franconia the 74th safest city in America for 2016.

The company analyzed crime statistics from each state to determine its ranking. The Safewise overview of Franconia reads:

Continued on Page 2



FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road
Telford, PA 18969-2205
215-723-1137

www.franconiatownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Grey R. Godshall, Chairman
David B. Fazio, First Vice Chairman
Robert H. Nice, Second Vice Chairman
Curtis N. Kratz, Supervisor
Steven P. Barndt, Supervisor

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jon A. Hammer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration 215-723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1
Joseph Kozeniewski, Chief
George H. Moyer III, Sergeant/Detective Division

BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

215-723-1137
Roger M. Koffel,
Code Enforcement Director
Jerry Rittenhouse, Building
Inspector/Code Enforcement Director

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

215-723-1153
Paul R. Nice, Public Works Director

IN THIS ISSUE



3

Remember to Vote on Election Day



6

Police Department Reaccredited

Township Takes Unique Step To Manage Finances

The Township is taking a unique approach to managing its finances.

Styer Associates, CPA of Souderton has been hired to provide monthly bookkeeping services to the Township. The firm will close the books each month, reconcile bank statements and provide detailed financial reporting.

The use of Styer will be more cost effective than hiring a full-time finance director and provide better segregation of financial duties. Maillie LLP will continue to conduct an annual audit of the Township's finances.

"Our relationship with Styer is one that I think more municipalities will consider," said Township Manager Jon Hammer.

Franconia Named A Safest Place In America

Continued from Page 1

"Hundreds of years after the first settlers laid claim to Franconia's farmland, their kin still harvests crops on those original plots. Having learned from their ancestors that you reap what you sow, local government has also discovered the key to a thriving community. Currently, Franconia is in the process of building a rain garden that will better manage the city's storm water and decrease the amount of toxins that flow back into streams, rivers, oceans, and groundwater. To the city, safety means protecting its people not only from crime, but potential health hazards as well."

There is no municipality in Montgomery County with its own police department that has a lower real estate tax rate and a lower crime rate.

"It's nice to be recognized for having one of the lowest crime rates in the country while still maintaining our low tax rate," Supervisor Chairman Grey Godshall said.





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Remember To Vote On Election Day

Election Day will soon be here. The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on Tuesday, November 8.

Listed below are the polling places within Franconia. If you are unsure at which polling location you should be voting or you would like additional information pertaining to the election, please contact the Montgomery County Voter 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



Leaf Collection Bags Available At Township Building

Private municipal waste haulers operating within the Township are required to offer a curbside leaf collection to residents. As required by Ordinance #359, private municipal waste collectors must conduct the pick-up of leaf waste in accordance with the regulations of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

For additional information on the leaf collection program and a list of scheduled pick-up dates, please visit the Township's website.



Free biodegradable leaf bags are available for Franconia Township residents at the administration building located at 671 Allentown Road from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Police: Lock Your Vehicles

The Police Department reminds residents to always lock vehicles.

Locking a car or truck is a simple but very effective way to safeguard a vehicle. Residents should also remove valuables from vehicles. If items can't be taken from a car, place them in the trunk or out of sight.

Earlier this year, thefts had been reported from vehicles in the High Street, Homestead Avenue and Delp Road areas. Computers and GPS systems were among the items taken.

"We try to get the word out to just lock up your cars and bring your valuables inside," said Police Chief Joseph Kozeniewski. "I know it's nice to be trusting but it's a different world."



Police Say Thank You

Police Chief Joseph Kozeniewski thanks the community for its support of the department in the wake of earlier police shootings.

The chief said residents visited the department with food or to just say thank you to officers for their service.

"You can't go into any restaurant without people just coming up and saying thank you," Chief Kozeniewski said. "I think we're really blessed in this area that we have such strong support from our residents and I know the neighboring townships are also getting the same support."

Police Department Reaccredited

The Franconia Police Department has again been reaccredited by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

Only about 100 of Pennsylvania's 1,400 police departments achieve accreditation. Franconia's department was first accredited in 2010 and was re-accredited in 2013.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their performance. The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth.

The department does an excellent job of serving our community and we congratulate it on achieving accreditation," said Supervisor Chairman Grey Godshall.



Disc Golf in Branchwood Park A Fun Time

Branchwood Park off Camp Road is home to Franconia's only disc golf course. Disc golf is similar to regular golf but you leave the balls and clubs at home.

Disc golfers use discs similar to Frisbees and aim for a disc pole hole, which looks like a metal basket. A pole extends up for the ground with chains and a basket to catch the disc. The object of the game is to complete each hole in the fewest number of throws from the tee. It's a fun way to spend time with friends or family. Plus, there is no greens fee.

Branchwood Park is also home to a covered pavilion, picnic tables along the Perkiomen Creek and lighted tennis and basketball courts that can be used until 10 p.m.





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www.franconiatownship.org

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One of the first things you can do is sign up for ReadyMontco notifications. This program delivers alerts about severe weather and other important events in Montgomery County to the devices of your choice. Whether you prefer emails, text messages or even an old-fashioned phone call, alerts will be sent directly to you.

There is no direct cost to sign up for ReadyMontco. However, there may be charges for certain features (like receiving text messages) so it's best to double check with your service providers.

ReadyMontco is the notification system used by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, along with its emergency management partners in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region.

Visit www.ReadyMontco.org to register.



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