

# franc talk



March 2017

## Township Committed To Preserving Open Space

The preservation of open space remains a priority in Franconia. That is why the Board of Supervisors has started work on updating the Township's Open Space Plan.

Thanks to the commitment of the Supervisors and the current plan, Franconia is a leader in the county in preserving open space.

"We have a very successful program," Supervisor Chairman Grey Godshall said at a recent meeting. "I think we need to formulate act two."

The Township is evaluating proposals from consultants who would assist with the updating of the plan. The consultant would prepare an inventory of available open space and prioritize those properties. The consultant would also help the Township develop a strategy.

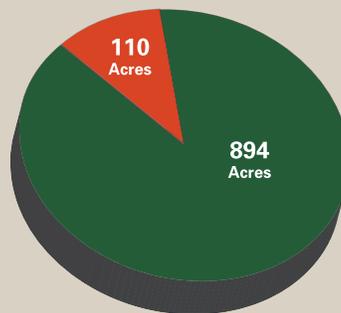
"Basically, our strategy, which was very successful, was match as many dollars as we can, dollar for dollar, get as many acres as we could get," Godshall said at the meeting.

Matching funds are still available but the amount has declined. Franconia has an earned income tax of .25 percent dedicated to the preservation of farmland or recreational or historic properties. The tax will generate \$960,000 this year.

The Township's open space plan works in concert with its regional municipal partners from both a planning and a funding perspective, allowing open space to be purchased at significantly lower rates than if it were purchased at market prices. In fact, many state and local grant programs not only encourage, but mandate regional cooperation to be eligible for grant funding.

Leveraging various state, county and local funding, along with some hard work and dedication from the Franconia community, has resulted in Franconia Township preserving more open space than any other township in the county. By all accounts, the Township's Open Space Plan has been very successful.

Franconia Township Preserved Open Space Acreage



■ Preserved With Township, County, State Funds  
■ Preserved With Township Funds

*Franconia Township has 9,600 total acres.*

### 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  
Dr. Charles Amuso, Supervisor  
Curtis N. Kratz, 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

## Road Improvements Planned for 2017

The Township Public Works Department will be taking on a number of paving projects in 2017 along with its normal chip sealing and crack sealing program.

Base repair will take place on the lower section of Cowpath Road between Broad Street and Township Line Road. A paver and seal coat will then be applied to that section of roadway. A paver laid seal coat will also be applied to the section of Godshall Road in front of Christopher Dock Academy as well as the intersection for Godshall Road and Route 113.

The Township's section of Maple Avenue will be receiving a paver laid seal coat. Curbing will be installed at the intersection of Godshall and Lower Roads and that section of Lower Road will be milled and overlaid to complete that portion of the PennDOT turn back program.

Curbing will also be installed on Forman Road between Lower and Hagey Drive, followed by widening. Jonathon Drive will be receiving a mill and overlay and Oak Drive will be paved.

As always, please be considerate of all work areas and road closures. It's best to avoid travel in these areas while under construction. If you must drive near work zones, please be alert for construction crews.



*Ryan Kochersperger (left) is welcomed as the Township's newest police officer by Supervisor Chairman Grey Godshall.*

*Officer Kochersperger was hired by the Board of Supervisors on January 16. He was a part-time officer in Telford Borough for the past two-and-a-half years and has experience working with the Franconia Police Department from that tenure. He replaces a retired officer.*



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## Board of Supervisors Welcomes Dr. Charles Amuso

For years, Dr. Charles Amuso has been a familiar name to the Franconia Community.



Amuso, who was the Souderton Area School District superintendent from 2005 to 2010, joined the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors last October. Dr. Amuso replaced Stephen Barndt, who resigned from the Board after serving as a Supervisor for nearly twenty years.

Dr. Amuso has a doctorate degree from Temple University, a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and bachelor's degree from Wheeling

College. He has served as chairman of the Township's Zoning Hearing Board since 2014 and has been a member of the Souderton-Telford Rotary since 2005.

"Dr. Amuso knows the community and cares about this community. For more than a decade, he has shown his tireless dedication to Franconia as an educator, volunteer and member of the Zoning Hearing Board," said Supervisor Chairman Grey Godshall. "He is beloved by so many people and he is the perfect fit for the position."

"Dr. Amuso is an outstanding administrator and such a quality person," said Township Manager Jon Hammer. "His honesty and integrity are above reproach and he has been an outstanding addition to the Board."

## Recycling Days Scheduled In Montco



### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

All collections are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Rain or shine.

#### Saturday, April 22

Indian Valley Middle School  
130 Maple Avenue, Harleysville,

#### Saturday, May 13

Lockheed Martin (enter on Goddard Boulevard)  
230 Mall Boulevard,  
King of Prussia

#### Saturday, May 20

Temple University  
Ambler Campus  
Enter at 1431 East Butler Avenue, Ambler

#### Saturday, June 24

Abington Junior High School  
2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington

### Paper Shredding

All collections are 9 a.m. to noon.  
Rain or shine.

#### Saturday, May 6

Indian Valley Middle School  
130 Maple Avenue, Harleysville

#### Saturday, October 14

Abington Junior High School  
2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington

#### Sunday, October 29

Lower Merion Transfer Station  
1300 North Woodbine Avenue,  
Penn Valley

### Tire Collection

All collections are 9 a.m. to noon.  
Rain or shine.

#### Saturday, June 10

Montgomery County  
Community College  
340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell

#### Saturday, June 17

Western Montgomery Career and  
Technology Center  
77 Graterford Road, Limerick

#### Saturday, July 1

Abington Junior High School  
2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington



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## Franconia Recognized For Safety

In 2016, Franconia Township was recognized by several leading publications for being ranked one of the safest communities in Pennsylvania and the nation.

One publication had Franconia rated the fifth safest community in Pennsylvania, while another had Franconia ranked the seventy-fourth safest community in the United States. In November 2016, the township received a congratulatory letter from Governor Tom Wolf recognizing Franconia Township and its residents for being one of Pennsylvania's safest communities.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

### GREETINGS:

It is my pleasure to congratulate Franconia Township on being named the 10<sup>th</sup> safest community in Pennsylvania in 2016.

The safety of Pennsylvania's towns and communities is one of the greatest responsibilities of the commonwealth. The resilience of Franconia and its residents over the past several years is commendable, and the commitment to community improvement is remarkable. The Franconia Township Police Department, surrounding fire companies, and EMS units dedicate themselves to the safety of all citizens on a daily basis. Franconians have contributed to the prosperity of the commonwealth by ensuring that the quality of life for its citizens is unparalleled. I applaud this community on its commitment to safety and I am certain Franconia will continue to thrive.

As Governor, and on behalf of all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am honored to congratulate Franconia on this remarkable accomplishment. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



*Tom Wolf*  
TOM WOLF  
Governor  
2016



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## Clean-Up Day Set For May 20

May 20 is clean-up day in Franconia. Residents can dispose of normal household trash at the J.P. Mascaro and Sons Transfer Station at Lower and Wile Roads from 7 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Disposal is free.

Residents must pre-register in person at the Franconia Township Building between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. beginning April 7. Residents will be required to specify a disposal time and describe the nature of the trash. The Township will issue a registration ticket for disposal that must be shown at the transfer station along with a valid driver's license with a Township address.



Normal household trash may include old appliances and white goods such as washers and dryers. Construction debris will not be accepted.

Visit [www.FranconiaTownship.org](http://www.FranconiaTownship.org) for more information.

## Sign Up For The Township's Email Newsletter

The Township's email newsletter delivers updates on activities, news and meetings right to your inbox.

To subscribe, just visit the Township's website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org).

Your address will only be used for the Township's email newsletters.

You can also keep informed by following the Township on Twitter at @FranconiaTwp.



**State Representative Robert W. Godshall and the Parks and Recreation Department will host the 26th annual Fishing Derby at Branchwood Park on Saturday, May 6 from 9:00am - 11:00am.**

**No pre-registration is required.**



## Township Balances Safety And Finances

Approximately half of 2561 municipalities in Pennsylvania use Pennsylvania State Police for police services, while Franconia Township is proudly served by its own local police department.

The Franconia Township Police Department was first accredited by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association in 2010. The department is one of only 107 police departments state-wide to receive this honor. It was reaccredited in 2013 and 2016.

Like most municipalities with its own police department, staffing and operating Franconia's police department is the Township's largest expense, accounting for nearly half of the overall general fund budget.

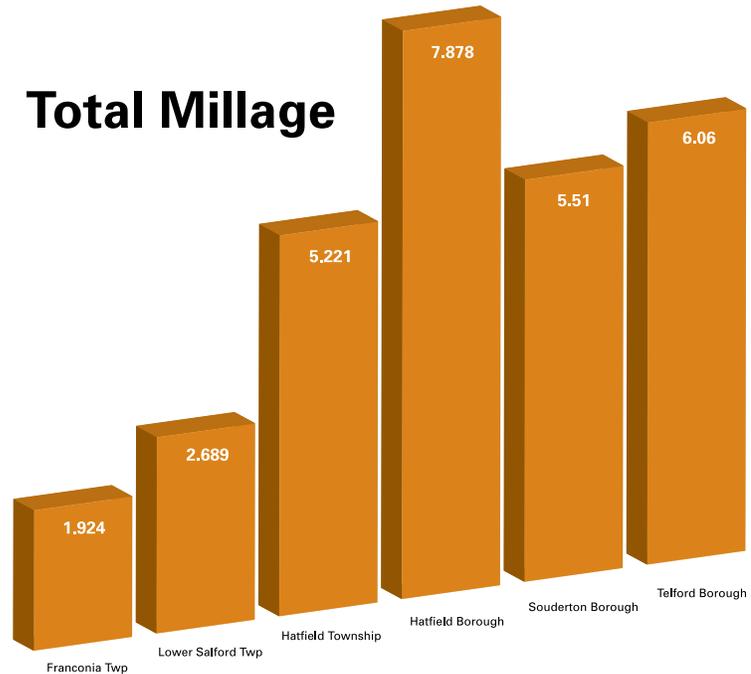
Aside from being recognized as one of the safest communities in Pennsylvania, Franconia is recognized as having among the lowest real estate tax rates in all of Montgomery County.

In January 2017, Board Chairman Grey Godshall revealed that 2016 income surpassed budgetary expectations, while expenses remained below budget.

"We pride ourselves on providing quality, first rate municipal services at a very reasonable tax rate." Godshall said. "In many cases, our municipal taxes are half of other Montgomery County communities. The Board of Supervisors and staff are proud to represent the residents of Franconia, a very special place."

Lastly, Franconia is a very livable and environmentally conscious community, having preserved more than 1000 acres of open space and farmland, ensuring green areas for future generations. This combination of low crime, low taxes, and preserved open space is what makes Franconia such a desirable place to live and a reason so many of us are proud to call Franconia home.

### Total Millage





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## Franconia Park System Has Something for Everyone

Spring is here, which means it is time to enjoy the outdoors. The Franconia Township Park System has seven parks with a variety of features, ranging from basketball courts to disc golf. The parks are the perfect place to exercise or to just spend some time with family and friends.

Learn more about the Township's recreation offerings at [www.FranconiaTownship.org](http://www.FranconiaTownship.org)

### **Franconia Community Park**

*Allentown and Godshall Roads*

- 2 covered pavilions
- 2 baseball fields
- 2 soccer fields
- 1 roller hockey rink
- 2 sand volleyball courts
- basketball courts
- playground equipment
- 2 miles of walking trails with exercise stations
- 2 tennis courts
- 1 football field

### **Forrest Meadow Park**

*Forrest Road*

- 1 multi-use field
- half-mile walking trail
- playground equipment
- tot-lot geared to children ages 2-5
- play set geared to children ages 5-12

### **Enos B. Godshall Park**

*Godshall and Lower Roads*

- walking trail
- pond and stream

### **Branchwood Park**

*Camp Road*

- disc golf course
- playground
- covered pavilion
- picnic tables and benches
- softball field
- lighted tennis and basketball courts

### **Chestnut Grove Park**

*Cowpath Road*

- a walking trail
- a butterfly garden
- birdhouses
- gazebo

### **Laurel Lane Park**

*Maple Avenue*

- playground equipment
- gazebo

### **East Branch Park**

*Allentown Road*

- picnic area





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**River of Dreams prepares to bring some of Billy Joel's hits to Franconia Community Park during last year's summer concert. The Township thanks sponsors Univest, Hagey Coach and Tours, Godshall's Quality Meats and Harleysville Party Rental. This year's concert is July 12 at 7 p.m. featuring Staticquo. Hope to see you there.**