

Franc Talk


Newsletter of Franconia Township • Summer / Fall 2004

Preserving Franconia Township and It's Farming Heritage

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) is pleased to announce the preservation of two more farms (#7 & #8 below). Both farms represent over 100 acres of farmland bringing the township total to nearly 400 acres of preservation. The township now has 8 working farms permanently preserved. The BOS established a goal of 800 acres for permanent preservation and potentially reducing development by approximately 500 new homes. Since the open-space referendum was approved in November 2001 and subsequently enacted in January 2002, the township has actively pursued the owners of several significant farms to encourage their participation by helping to preserve the traditional heritage of Franconia Township - farming.

With the support of Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania over \$8 million dollars has been paid to establish permanent conservation easements for development rights. Several township farms are currently being reviewed and considered for farmland preservation, and if agreements are reached, another 150 to 200 acres may become permanently preserved within the very near future.

Farms permanently preserved in Franconia Township:

- 1) Yoder Farm, Cowpath Rd. (60.59 acres)
- 2) Schuler Farm, Cowpath Rd. (44.93 acres)
- 3) Yoder Farm, Green Hill Rd. (33.43 acres)
- 4) Souder Farm, Hunsicker Rd. (43.66 acres)
- 5) Souder Farm, Hunsicker Rd. (67.97 acres)
- 6) Nyce Farm, Creamery Rd. (56.71 acres)
- 7) Nice Farm, Harleysville Pike (77.68 acres)
- 8) Anders Farm, Elroy Rd. (28.17 acres) 

Township Welcomes New Employees

KATHLEEN A. CMOREY • ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Kathy A. Cmorey joined the township administration on July 14, 2004. She was hired as new Administrative Assistant. Kathy is a Quakertown resident of 17 years, originally from Bensalem, PA. Before relocating to Quakertown, she worked for 14 years with the Redevelopment Authority in Philadelphia. Her most recent work experience includes Farm & Home Oil Company. She brings with her 20+ years of office management and management assistance experience. Her position encompasses many aspects, including preparation of daily reports & letters, monitoring development, facilitating the zoning application process, coordinating bid and contract documents, preparation of meeting minutes, and maintaining township files.


Kathy's interests include aerobics, dancing, concerts, and traveling with her husband, Bill. They enjoy visiting their

children in York, Bloomsburg and Coudersport, Pennsylvania.

LINDA D. NICE • SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST



Linda D. Nice joined the township administration on June 21, 2004. She was hired as the new Secretary / Receptionist. Linda is the friendly face behind the counter who welcomes visitors and answers calls. She also coordinates all appointments for the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, facilitates all building permits, schedules use of the township building, maintains the Geoplan Database, and performs other various duties as directed by township management. She has a very pleasant demeanor and is always happy to help residents both on the phone and at the counter.

Linda resides in Franconia Township with her husband Kevin and their son Kevin Austin and daughter Jacqueline. 

Regional Planning Moves Forward

Members of the Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission (IVRPC) plan to proceed with public hearings during the fall of 2004. After nearly 5 years of planning discussions and state legislative changes, the IVRPC has accomplished the goal of having the municipalities of the Indian Valley agree to consider their recommendations for establishing a unified land-use matrix that would establish zoning controls for future development within the township boundaries of Franconia, Lower Salford, Upper Salford and Salford and the boroughs of Souderton and Telford.

(cont. on p. 4)

Act 537 Planning Reviewed

Sewer Management Program Tabled

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) anticipate re-submitting their proposed Act 537 Plan to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) during October 2004. The Act 537 Plan depicts the public sanitary sewer needs for the township over the next 5 to 10 years. The BOS have been working closely with DEP since February 2004 to ensure that this required plan hopefully receives its final approval by February 2005. As part of the Act 537 Plan, a Sewer Management Plan (SMP) is recommended for enactment once the Plan receives its DEP approval.

The SMP Ordinance was considered for adoption in June 2004, but due to funding requirements that currently offer an 85% reimbursement to the township for SMP costs, the BOS were recommended to “table” action on the SMP Ordinance until the completion and approval of the Act 537 Plan. The SMP will inspect all on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) by the four watersheds in Franconia Township. The first watershed (Perkiomen Creek watershed) will be inspected beginning in April 2005 (weather permitting) and primarily includes the Earlington and Morwood areas of the township. Further details of the SMP will be delivered to those watersheds that will be inspected. No mandatory repairs will be required during the inspection process, but recommendations may be suggested should an OLDS be malfunctioning. The BOS will determine the long-term solution(s) for each watershed once all inspections have been completed for each area.

The township will have a section on its website (www.franconiatownship.org) dedicated to the SMP with a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) along with a dedicated message system to help assist the township residents with any concerns they may have regarding the SMP beginning in 2005. 

Help Us Manage Stormwater Pollution

WHAT IS STORM WATER?

When it rains or snows, all of that precipitation either travels over the land or seeps into the ground. The water that runs over the land and gets into the storm sewer system is called storm water runoff. This water then goes directly into our nearby creeks, rivers, and lakes.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

As this water flows over the ground and through the streets it washes debris, chemicals, and other pollutants into our creeks. The runoff, along with everything it collects on the way, never gets treated! It requires very expensive treatment technologies to remove these harmful pollutants from our drinking water supplies. In addition, excessive debris can clog inlets causing flooding and property damage.

WAYS FOR YOU TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION


- *Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as oil, cleaning supplies, and paint. Never pour them into the storm sewer system.*
- *Properly and efficiently use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides to prevent excess amounts into runoff.*
- *Report any signs of soil or other debris washing out of construction sites that could impact water quality.*
- *Pick up after pets and dispose of their wastes in the toilet or trash can.*
- *Install innovative storm water practices on residential property such as rain barrels or rain gardens.*
- *Report any discharges from storm system outfalls during times of dry weather — a sign that there could be a problem with the system.*

HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Franconia Township, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, is currently taking steps to prevent storm water pollution through a federally mandated program that better manages storm water. The 5-year NPDES (National Pollution Discharge

Elimination System) program will reduce the pollution by identifying sources of contamination in our community and get the entire township involved in making sure our water stays clean for drinking, recreation and wildlife! Please, do your part and help us manage stormwater pollution!

Look for information in future FrancTalk issues on upcoming public meetings presenting the new stormwater program. Residents, business owners, contractors and any interested parties will be invited to come and address stormwater pollution concerns in the community.


For more information, go to the DEP website: www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword “stormwater”. 

New Building Code

In June the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors opted into the new state building code, the International Building Code 2003, which became effective on July 8, 2004. All 2,566 municipalities in the state must conform to the new building code. Some municipalities have hired a 3rd party inspection agency to review plans, issue permits, and do on-site inspections rather than handle these tasks in-house. Franconia Township will continue to perform all the building inspection tasks without a 3rd party agency.

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry will no longer be responsible for reviewing and approving all commercial plans; instead the township will take on that duty. The only phase that the Department of Labor and Industry will be conducting in Franconia Township is the approval and inspections for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The purpose of a building code is for the protection of public health, to ensure safety of building occupants, and to protect property from failure and destruction.

For more information about the building code, log onto 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. 

Police Department Moves into New Headquarters

The members of the Franconia Township Police Department have a new place to call “home.” On May 5th, the officers completed a move to a brand new police facility across the parking lot from the existing township building.



Township Supervisors Chairman Steve Barndt offers his remarks while Police Sergeant Jeffery Gower and Police Chief Joe Kozeniewski look on at the May 15th dedication ceremony.

The new police headquarters was the result of two years of planning and construction. According to Police Chief Joe Kozeniewski, the department had outgrown its space in the township building. “The existing building was constructed in 1976 and our growth forced us into utilizing three separate areas of the structure. This did not provide a cohesiveness for the police department,” the Chief commented.



The façade of the new Franconia Township Police Department as it nears completion.

The Board of Supervisors approved the construction in early 2003 at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. There was a greater cost savings since the Franconia Township Highway Department performed nearly all of the site work preparation, excavation, paving and landscaping.

Township resident Richard Kapusta designed the new facility to the satisfaction of the officers. The building boasts many modern features that will keep the department ahead of the curve on technology and police techniques. Among some of the features are:

- *Three-staged evidence storage and processing area.*
- *Digital cameras that are necessary for monitoring detainees in the prisoner holding cells.*
- *Fully secure prisoner detention reception and holding areas.*
- *Enlarged patrol squad room and locker rooms.*
- *Covered carport where four patrol cars can be parked.*

The police department hosted a Dedication Ceremony and Open House on Saturday, May 15, 2004. Township Manager



Members of the Franconia Township Police Department in attendance at the dedication ceremonies.

Kevin Bayer, Board Chairman Steven Barndt, Police Sergeant Jeffery Gower and Police Detective George Moyer III performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony. After presentations by township officials, all guests and visitors were invited to a reception inside the building. Many township residents toured the building throughout the day.

Everyone is welcome to stop by for a tour of the new facility. 🌸

Free Gun Locks Available at Police Department

Leaving an unattended, loaded firearm in a home with children is not safe or smart. A loaded gun that is not under the direct control of its owner is dangerous. If you think you can hide a gun from children, think again!

The Franconia Township Police Department is also concerned for the safety of all of our children. We are offering gun locks for township residents free of charge for those who request them.

The locks are constructed with a key lock and a large cable that can be used on pistols, shotguns and rifles.

The locks are provided by a grant from the United States Department of Justice “Project Childsafe.” Anyone who wishes to obtain the locks may stop at the new police department facility at 671 Allentown Road during business hours or by calling 215-723-6777. 🌸

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! 🌸

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Indian Valley Greeneres:** *Gross & 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*
- **Freed Tract Subdivision:** *1-lot subdivision — Lower Road*
- **Godshall Subdivision:** *1-lot annexation — Highland Avenue*
- **Walton & Sally Yoder Subdivision:** *1-lot subdivision — Green Hill 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:

- **The Vistas at Highland Ridge:** *Macoby Run Corporation, 26-unit single-family dwellings — Hunsicker Road*
- **Avalon:** *T.H. Properties, 62-unit single-family dwellings — Halteman Road*
- **Penn View Tract:** *Telvil Corporation, 13-lot subdivision — Reliance Road*
- **Hagey Road Land Development:** *Chad Clemens, commercial building & parking lot for landscape company — Hagey Road*
- **Hendricks Property:** *Wilbur & Rebecca Hendricks, 8-lot subdivision — Godshall Road*
- **Moyer Packing Company:** *3-lot reverse subdivision — Lower Road*
- **Allebach Tract:** *Jack & Karen Parry, 9-lot subdivision — Morwood & Hunsicker Roads*
- **Silver Maple Estates:** *Drew Darrah, 5-lot subdivision — N. Fourth Street*
- **Greaser Tract:** *Charles & Regine Greaser, 9-lot subdivision — Forrest Road*

3rd Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park

The 3rd Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2004 at the Franconia Community Park. The festive night in the park was a complete success, there was island music, face painting, dancing and food for all to enjoy! There was a tremendous turnout for the event by the township residents. The Franconia Township Park and Recreation Board would like to thank Uninvest, MOPAC, Hagey Coach & Tours, and Leidy's for sponsoring the concert. They would also like to thank the Mango Men for a terrific performance!



Franconia resident, 8-month old Brandon James Kuhnsman of Colonial Avenue enjoys the Mango Men Concert from his blanket on the lawn of Franconia Community Park.

Through the IVRPC recommendations, Franconia Township may realize some reduction in the number of housing units currently permitted under township zoning, but will retain the industrial districts for future business opportunities. The recommendations must go through public hearings before any action is considered and forwarded to each municipality for consideration by its elected officials. The IVRPC public hearings are planned to begin in October 2005. Currently the IVRPC meets on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00PM and the meetings are held at the Franconia Township municipal building.

Remember to Vote

Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on November 2, 2004. 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

Franconia North-East

Christ Church at Indian Creek Church & Cowpath Roads, Telford

Franconia North-West

Franconia Township Building
671 Allentown Road, Franconia

Franconia South-East

Immanuel Leidy's United Church of Christ
276 West Cherry Lane, Souderton

Franconia South-West

Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Avenue, Harleysville
(Main Auditorium, Administration Building)

13th Annual Fishing Derby

The 13th Annual Youth Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, May 8, 2004 at Branchwood Park. Although it was a brisk spring day, approximately 200 hundred fishermen came out to compete. The award winning fish was caught shortly after the competition got underway. Nine-year-old Derek Keiper was the grand prizewinner. All fish were weighed and measured and then converted to a point total. The trout he caught was weighed and measured then converted to a combined score of 49 _.

The contest was divided into two age groups, 9 through 12 and 8 and under. Joey Devery and Tanner Gaburon tied for first place among the 8 and under age group. The converted weight and length of both their trout gave them each a score of 22. Brett Landis and David Hartzell also tied for first place among the 9-12 age group. The converted weight and length of both their trout gave them each a score of 43. Representative Robert Godshall and Franconia Township sponsored the fishing derby. 🌸



Grand Prize Winner Derek Keiper proudly displays his award winning fish at the 13th Annual Youth Fishing Derby.

Fishermen line up across the bank at the fishing derby this past May at Branchwood Park.



Representative Robert Godshall gets his picture taken with the three winners from the 13th Annual Fishing Derby.

Forrest Meadow Park Partnership Program

In September of 2001 Franconia Township had a Master Plan completed for the Forrest Meadow Park, which is located at Forrest Road and Fourth Street. The plan is a detailed report of how the park will be developed. The Park and Recreation Committee is now preparing to apply for a state grant to begin the first phase of development. A major component of the application is a section pertaining to partnerships. Franconia Township's Park and Recreation Committee is seeking investors to join our team to develop Forrest Meadow Park through Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program. The program provides state and federal grant dollars to help fund community recreation projects like Forrest Meadow Park.

The Community Conservation Partnerships Program offers a 50 percent matching grant for the development of a park. The matching contribution from the township and its partners can be a monetary investment, non-cash "in-kind-services" donation or material donations. Monetary investments could be made on a yearly basis, once every five years or as a one-time donation. The donation of non-cash "in-kind-services" could be such things as volunteer labor, gardening, landscaping, environmental studies and other things of that nature. Material donations could be in the form of flowers, shrubs, trees, wood, picnic tables, benches, birdhouses, pavement, stone, playground equipment, recycling/ trash containers and any other material that would help benefit the development of the park. Contributions can be made on behalf of a loved one with a plaque, bench, tree or even a brick.

Franconia Township has a strong park system with many beautiful acres of fields and trails for everyone to enjoy and we would like to see the park system continue to grow within the township. Strong partnerships between businesses, residents, service organizations and municipalities build stronger communities. The Forrest Meadow Master Plan is available for review at the township building. If you are interested in becoming a partner please contact Jamie Brophy at 215-723-1137. 🌸

Boy Scout Birdhouse Project

Dylan Rauschenberger, a local Boy Scout from Troop 461 recently completed a birdhouse project in Franconia Township Community Park. Dylan built birdhouses, which were placed all around the park. The houses were built for the birds native to our area. He also provided detailed information pertaining to these native species. With the completion of this project, Dylan will earn his Eagle Scout status. The Franconia Township Park and Recreation Board would like to commend Mr. Rauschenberger on a job well done. 🌸



Dylan Rauschenberger displays his researched information regarding the different birds native to the Franconia area. The information was a part of a Eagle Scout Project Dylan worked on this summer.

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128
Franconia PA 18924
(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) 723-6778
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*

National Night Out Against Crime

The Franconia Township Police Department hosted the National Night Out Against Crime activities at Franconia Community Park on August 3rd, 2004. From a distance you can see the different exhibits, vendors, and residents who took part in this year's event. In addition to food, crime demonstrations and activities, and a dunking tank, there was also a car show for residents to enjoy. Congratulations to the Franconia Township Police Department for another successful National Night Out Against Crime. 🌸



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