

FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Summer 2005

New Sewer Authority Executive Director

George Witmayer is the newest addition to the township staff. He was hired as the Franconia Sewer Authority Executive Director on June 20, 2005. As the Executive Director, George oversees the general planning and administrative functions of the sewer authority. He will provide assistance and guidance to devel-



opers and residents with sewer concerns or questions. He will oversee the on-lot sewer system inspections that are part of the sewer management program. In addition to these items, he

will also work closely with the township in developing the industrial district and its anticipated sewer treatment plant and industrial interceptor sewer lines.

George has an Associates Degree in engineering from Montgomery County Community College and a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Management from Eastern University. For 24 years he worked at Moyer Packing Company, in the area of environment and regulatory affairs. While there he oversaw the treatment plant operations for many years and assisted in design and construction oversight. For the last six years he has worked as a consultant, both independently, and for Penn Environmental & Remediation of Hatfield, PA. As a consultant he has assisted in the design of numerous water and wastewater projects requiring unique solutions, including metals removal, acid mine drainage, and industrial pretreatment waste.

George has been married for thirty years to his wife Jean and he has two grown children. He has lived in the general area all of his life growing up in Schwenksville and currently residing in Salford Township. The township and sewer authority are very excited and pleased to welcome George! 🌹

Police Promotions Announced

The Franconia Township Police department has announced the promotions of two patrol officers to the positions of Corporal. Edward P. Hall, a nine-year veteran of the department, and Stephen S. Rinker, who has been an officer in Franconia Township since 2002, were officially sworn-in at the monthly Township Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, April 25, 2005.

Hall and Rinker were among seven candidates who participated in an extensive testing process that included a written examination, an oral interview panel and an evaluation of their job performance. Police Chief Joseph Kozeniewski noted that all seven were very worthy candidates but Hall and Rinker excelled in all aspects of the selection process. "We have two outstanding men for our new corporal positions," added the Chief.

Corporal Hall is an active member of the North Penn Tactical Response Team and a certified firearms instructor. He is also coordinating the department's process for acquiring accreditation from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police.

Corporal Rinker recently established the department's Bicycle Patrol Unit. He is also in charge of all police equipment maintenance and ordering.



Sarah Rinker looks on as Judge Borek congratulates newly sworn Corporal Stephen S. Rinker.



Judicial District Justice Harold D. Borek administers the oath of office to the new Corporal Edward P. Hall. His wife, Cheryl Hall, holds the bible for the oath.

Both of the newly appointed Corporals will supervise the day-to-day patrol operations. They will be responsible for coordinating traffic related details, such as, addressing problem areas involving vehicle crashes and speeding violations. They will enhance the community policing philosophy of the department through increased contacts with the citizens of the township. 🌹

FRANCONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

New Bike Patrol Unit

The Franconia Police have added a new weapon to their compliment of crime fighting and community policing tools: bicycles. The Bicycle Patrol Unit (BPU), under the direction of Corporal Steve Rinker, began pedaling on April 1, 2005. Members of the BPU include Officer Chuck Stockert, Officer Wayne Pursell, and Officer Steve Cronin. All members of the BPU have completed an intense 40-hour course offered through the International Police Mountain Bike Association and have many combined hours riding bikes, both personally and professionally.

Some of the duties of the BPU will be: patrolling Franconia's extensive park and trail systems, patrolling developments, patrolling commercial buildings, teaching kids about bike safety, and attending community events. 🌸



Land Development/Subdivisions

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Moyer Packing Company Reverse Subdivision:** 3-lot reverse subdivision - Allentown & Lower Roads
- **James & Gail Alderfer Minor Subdivision:** 2-lot subdivision - Meetinghouse Road
- **Clemmer Tract Minor Subdivision:** Glen Clemmer, 1-lot subdivision - Delp Road
- **Silver Maple Estates Phase II:** Drew Darrah, 4-lot subdivision - North Fourth Street

The following land developments have received preliminary approval:

- **Allebach Tract:** Jack & Karen Parry, 9-lot subdivision, single-family dwellings - Morwood & Hunsicker Roads
- **Penn View Tract:** Telvil Corporation; John Garis, 13-lot subdivision, single-family dwellings - Reliance Road
- **Belmont Estates Phase II:** T.H. Properties, 20-lot subdivision, single-family dwellings - Bergey Road
- **Godshall Quality Meats:** Mark Godshall, expansion - Mill 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
- **Hendricks Property:** Wilbur & Rebecca Hendricks, 8-lot subdivision - Godshall Road
- **U.S. Stone:** John Bragitikos, construct two commercial buildings for the wholesale and storage of natural stone - Forman Road
- **Handley Tract Minor Subdivision:** Randall Handley, 2-lot subdivision - Halteman Road
- **Westport Farms Minor Subdivision:** T.H. Properties, separate Franconia Township and Hatfield Township portions of property - Miner Road
- **Reinford Subdivision:** Clarence & Gail Reinford, 8-lot subdivision - Godshall Road
- **Maloni Street Investors Subdivision:** Maloni Street Investors, 9-lot subdivision - Yoder & Indian Creek Roads 🌸

Single-Family Construction

Are you planning construction on your property? The Township is taking measures to increase awareness of construction impacts on our water resources. All projects that will clear, grade, or disturb a site need to install erosion and sediment controls. The sediment from construction sites must be trapped and prevented from leaving the site and getting into our storm sewer systems and creeks. Not only do our water resources need to be protected, but without these controls, properties downstream can be affected when stormwater carries the sediment down slope.

If the proper erosion control techniques are used, water quality will be improved and flooding will be reduced. Common control measures include silt fence, hydro-seeding, straw and vegetation. Please contact the Township with any questions or for more information on erosion and sediment control and stabilized measures to keep our waterways clean. 🌸

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! 🌸



Forrest Meadow Park Partnership Program

On October 13th, 2004 Franconia Township completed and submitted a grant application for the above referenced project. In April 2005 the township was notified, by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), that the Forrest Meadow Park Project was not selected for funding this year. Franconia Township still maintains a rural character and has a large amount of open space and parks and DCNR concentrated its efforts in areas that are more urban and in more need of recreational open space. The township will re-apply this year and focus strongly on our trail connections into the boroughs and our involvement in the regional plan. The application will demonstrate the positive impact the development of the park will have on the areas that are more congested and less rural than our township, mainly that it will positively affect the boroughs.

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.

Time to Mow

For nearly 50 years Franconia Township has regulated the appearance of all properties in the township. In order to help keep Franconia looking beautiful, it is the responsibility of residents and business owners to keep their lawns mowed. Please remember to keep grass and weeds mowed less than 12 inches high. Franconia Township's Ordinance No. 12 requires all township property owners to prevent the uncultivated growth of weeds or harmful plants and to keep ground-cover vegetation under one-foot high. Failure to comply with a township ordinance will result in a code violation notice followed by a fine or legal action. For more information on township codes please visit our website at www.franconiatownship.org.

Above Ground Swimming Pool Regulations

With a new interest in "blue blow-up" aboveground swimming pools, the township would like to remind residents of our aboveground swimming pool regulations.

- 1) **All aboveground swimming pools 24" to 52" high require a building permit, which are available at the township municipal building during regular business hours.**
- 2) **Swimming pools less than 24" high (i.e., kiddie-pools) do not require a permit, but must be emptied when not in use, unless it is in a fenced-in area.**
- 3) **Aboveground swimming pools 48" and higher, with rigid sides and rims, do not require fencing.**

Since, "blue blow-up" swimming pools do not have rigid sides and rims, the township requires these and similar swimming pools to be in a fenced-in area.

Please contact the township Code Enforcement Department at (215) 723-1137 for any questions regarding swimming pool permits.

Magician Night in the Park

On Wednesday, June 22, 2005 the Franconia Township Park and Recreation Committee hosted the first ever magician in the park. Stuart Rudnick, of Magic by Stuart Inc., provided the magic. The magician performed tricks that ranged from pulling a bunny out of his hat to making a white handkerchief turn into a bird. The audience was mainly consisting of children under the age of 5 and they enjoyed the tricks very much. The S.A.V.E. group provided refreshments for the event. On behalf of the Franconia Park and Recreation Committee they would like to thank Stuart Rudnick and all the people who came out to see the show, as well as S.A.V.E.



Open Space Plan Approved

The township has worked very hard revising its 1995 Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan. The hard work paid off and on April 26th, 2005 the Montgomery County Open Space Board approved the plan. The approval was the first granted in Montgomery County. On July 18th, 2005 the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors officially adopted the new plan. The adopted plan will help assist the township in securing open space grant funding through the recently approved Growing Greener referendum approved in Montgomery County. The township expects to be eligible for nearly \$1.2 million in grant funding during the first round. The plan is available for review and purchase at the township building. The office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM. The plan can also be viewed on the township website at www.franconiatownship.org. 🌿



Inlet Marker Program

These ceramic tiles are part of the Township's new public education and involvement program regarding the water quality of our creeks. Through this program, local youth organizations and other special interest groups can volunteer to glue these markers to the curbs and roads adjacent to our stormwater inlets. The program is designed to increase public awareness that all stormwater systems remain free of debris, oil and other pollutants that flow into our streams.

If your or your group is interested in volunteering for this program, please contact Jamie Brophy at (215)723-1137 or email her at jbrophy@franconia-township.org. 🌿

Don't Ditch the Ditch

After it rains, stormwater runoff travels over the roads collecting debris and pollutants. The sediment, fertilizers, pet waste, oil and grease, etc. that can get into the water, quickly flow into the storm sewer where they get discharged directly into our creeks without ever being treated! The consequences of this can include odorous, unsightly algal blooms, illness from bacteria, harm to our aquatic life, and expensive laboratory testing.

Ditches, the environmentally sensitive alternative, filter out some of these pollutants and infiltrate the runoff back into our groundwater. Compared to stormwater pipe, ditches provide more capacity to convey stormwater runoff and their pervious nature slows down the velocity to allow the water to be absorbed by plants and infiltrate into the soil.

To help increase water quality and offset negative stormwater impacts, protect and preserve these low maintenance ditches! 🌿



Events Calendar



Representative Robert Godshall is pictured here with the 2005 Fishing Derby Overall 1st Place winner Kevin Detweiler.



Sarah Purcell and Crystal Sell show their award winning fish.

14th Annual Fishing Derby

The 14th Annual Youth Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at Branchwood Park. The beautiful brisk spring day was the perfect atmosphere for fishing. Approximately 200 hundred fishermen came out to compete. The overall award winning fish was caught by twelve-year-old Kevin Detweiler. All fish were weighed and measured and then a converted to a point total. The trout he caught was weighed and measured then converted to a combined score of 48.

The contest was divided into two age groups, 9 through 12 and 8 and under. Sara Jones won first place among the 8 and under age group. The converted weight and length of her trout gave her a score of 18. Jack Mulgrew followed in a close second with a score of 17, and Alyssa Gifford brought up the rear with a third place finish of 16. Kevin Detweiler, as previously mentioned, won first place for the 9-12 age group with his score of 48. Sarah Purcell also followed in a close second with her score of 47. Crystal Sell finished in third for that age group with a score of 44. Representative Robert Godshall and Franconia Township sponsored the fishing derby. 🌸



Families crowd the banks at the 14th.

Wednesday, August 17, 2005

Movie Night In The Park

WHEN: 7:30PM (OR DARK) - 10:30PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

(Rain Date: August 18, 2005)

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board is planning a movie night in the park again this year. The movie will be projected on a big screen and residents are invited to take a seat on the lawn and watch the flick. The movie will be "Racing Stripes". Refreshments will be available!

Saturday, August 27, 2005

Youth Tennis Clinic

WHEN: 8:00AM - 11:00AM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

Tennis Courts

AGES: 6-12 Pre-Registration Required

Tracey Dinh, a Souderton Area High School Senior, will be running a youth tennis clinic on Saturday, August 27, 2005 from 8:00AM until 11:00AM at the Franconia Community Park Tennis Courts. The free clinic is being offered to children ages 6-12. Pre-registration at the township building is required. Registration will be capped at 25 students so sign-up early. The township office is open Monday through Friday 8:00AM until 4:30PM. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own rackets. There will be a limited supply available at the clinic.

Saturday, September 18 2005

Car Show and Fund Raiser Event

WHEN: 9:00AM - 2:00PM

**WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Godshall Road side, parking
on Allentown Road side)**

(Rain Date: September 25, 2005)

The Souderton Charter School Collaborative will be holding a car show and flea market at the Franconia Community Park on the Godshall Road side of the park this fall. This is the first year for the show but they hope to make it an annual event. Please come out and enjoy the cars and crafts. 🌸



Basketball Nets in the Street

Township officials have recently become concerned with the growing number of basketball stands in the street. In the past year there have been at least three instances where vehicles have struck these basketball stands. The streets are there for the purpose of vehicle travel and were not intended to be used as basketball courts. Many of the developments in the township, such as Banbury Crossing and Kingscote are inundated with these basketball stands often having multiple nets per street. Approximately 20 basketball stands are located on Kingscote Drive. Although there is no particular ordinance prohibiting the basketball nets from being placed on the street, the township feels that it is the responsibility of the owner should something happen. This issue will be scheduled for further discussion. 🌹

Discount Amusement Park Tickets

Franconia Township Park & Recreation Committee is again offering discount tickets this summer. Tickets can be purchased at the Franconia Township Administrative Office located at 671 Allentown Road, Franconia. The office hours are 8:00AM until 4:30PM, Monday through Friday. All sales must be paid for in cash or money order, no checks or credit cards accepted. The following is a list of discounted tickets the township carries:

- *Baltimore Aquarium*
- *Adventure Aquarium*
- *Dorney Park*
- *Dutch Wonderland*
- *Hershey Park*
- *Knoebels Amusement Park*
- *PA Renaissance Faire/Festival*
- *Philadelphia Zoo*
- *Sesame Place*
- *Six Flags Great Adventure* 🌹

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128
Franconia PA 18924
(215) 723-1137
www.franconiatownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Drew Darrah
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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*

Well Testing

The Montgomery County Health Department would like residents to know that they provide a well testing service. Residents who have wells in the township can have the well tested by the department free of charge. Testing kits are available at the Franconia Township Administrative Office, 671 Allentown Road, Franconia, Pennsylvania. Questions regarding well testing can be directed to Rachel DeMarzio at 610-278-5117. 🌹



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