

FrancoTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Spring 2007

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 2, 2007. 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. 🌸



Franconia Township Supervisors:
Top Row (l-r.)
Curtis Kratz,
Drew Darrah;
Bottom Row (l-r.)
2nd Vice Chairman
W. Keith Freed,
1st Vice Chairman
Grey Godshall,
Chairman
Steve Barndt.

Police Highway Safety Unit Created to Address Road Problems

As the Indian Valley Area has experienced increases in motor vehicle traffic, the Franconia Township Police Department has addressed those associated issues with the creation of a Highway Safety Unit. The new division of the police department is overseen by Corporal Stephen Rinker. It consists of three distinct divisions which include:

- *traffic safety*
- *accident reconstruction*
- *motor carrier enforcement*



Five specially trained officers make up the unit. They are Officers Travis Bivighouse, Tim Boyle, Al Gesullo, Corporal Ed Hall, and Corporal Stephen Rinker. All are involved in continuous training and updates so that they remain proficient in their skills.

Some of the responsibilities of the Highway Safety Unit will be safety related details such as seat belt and speeding enforcement, commercial vehicle inspections, accident investigations and dissemination of traffic safety information to the public.

For example, three team members are trained to reconstruct serious crash scenes so that definitive causes can be determined. If it is determined that a problem in the roadway design exists, the team will make recommendations to the township officials and the state Department of Transportation to correct the deficiencies.

Residents can contact Corporal Rinker with concerns about speeding and other traffic-related issues along township roads. Officers from the Traffic Safety Unit will then be assigned to monitor those

roadways for problems and take appropriate enforcement action.

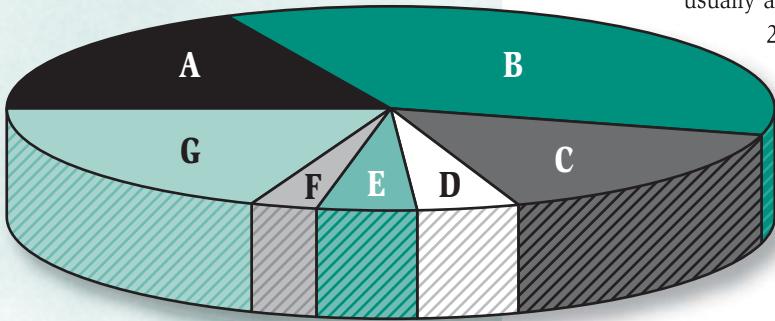
The police department uses the following tools for assistance with traffic issues:

- *Traffic speed counter - this unit provides police with data over a period of several days or weeks. The data includes vehicle speeds, the times of the day when speeds are highest, and the number of cars using the road during hourly segments.*
- *Speed indicator trailer - this unit is placed throughout the township and lets motorists know their speed at that very moment.*
- *Speed timing devices - these are computerized stop watches that the officers use to determine the speed of a vehicle between two pre-set points. Pennsylvania is the only state that does not permit local police to use radar at this time.*

Any residents who have questions or concerns about speeding, traffic congestion, or problems with traffic signals are encouraged to contact the Franconia Township Police Highway Safety Unit at (215) 723-6778. 🌸

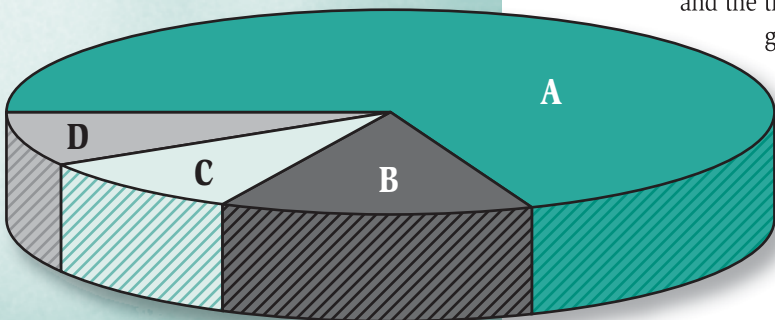
2007 Township Budget Approval

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$5.24 million 2007 General Fund budget. The general purpose millage rate (.669) was increased this year by 3%. The fire protection (.132) and library (.165) support remained unchanged. The township 2007 millage rate was set at .966.



Expenses are allocated to the following departments:

- A) Administration: \$885,894
- B) Police/Fire Protection: \$1,777,801
- C) Public Works: \$757,626
- D) Code Enforcement: \$211,670
- E) Recreation: \$203,940
- F) Debt Service: \$137,645
- G) Interfund Transfers: \$937,200



Revenue is from the following sources:

- A) Taxes (Real Estate, EMST, EIT): \$3,618,879
- B) Intergovernmental Revenue: \$693,650
- C) General Government Fees: \$482,100
- D) Operating Transfers: \$449,142

Park & Recreation Update

The park and recreation committee is currently preparing for the upcoming spring and summer season. They will hold their normal annual events throughout the spring and summer months. The events are listed in the back of this newsletter. In addition to the normal events, the committee will be offering a week-long tennis clinic this summer. The clinic will be run by a professional instructor and will take place at the Franconia Community Park Tennis Courts. The clinic will be opened to children ages 7 through 12 years old. The costs and dates are still being determined. Information will be posted on the township website and on the park sign and in the local papers throughout the spring and summer months. The committee will also have discount amusement park tickets available again this summer. The tickets usually arrive around Memorial Day. Please check with the township by calling 215-723-1137 or visiting the website at www.franconiatownship.org.

The public works department have begun working on the parking lot and entrance at the Forrest Meadow Park site.



Forrest Meadow Park Project Update

As you may have noticed work has begun at Forrest Meadow Park located on Forrest Road and Fourth Street. Phase one of development is currently being funded through grants received from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Department of Community and Economic Development. The Public Works Department has begun installing the stormwater facilities and the parking lot area. The work on the parking lot is scheduled to be completed in 2007. In addition to the parking lot, a walking trail will be installed this year. The trail will be an 8-foot wide loop trail that is one mile in length. Both the parking lot and the trail will be paved. In the fall of 2007 the multi-use athletic field will be graded and seeded. The playground equipment along with a pavilion is scheduled to be installed in late 2007 and early 2008. The final seeding and landscaping of phase one will take place in the spring and summer of 2008. Phase one is anticipated to reach completion in 2008. The township will apply for grant funding for future phases of development.

Volunteer Applications Available

The Salford-Franconia Township Joint Park Board is looking for a volunteer board member. The committee oversees the park functions at Branchwood Park located on Camp Road. The park is jointly owned by both Franconia Township and Salford Township. The committee meets four times a year to discuss the park and resolve any issues that may arise. Also, residents of Franconia Township that have an interest in serving on any 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!

Land Development/Subdivisions

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

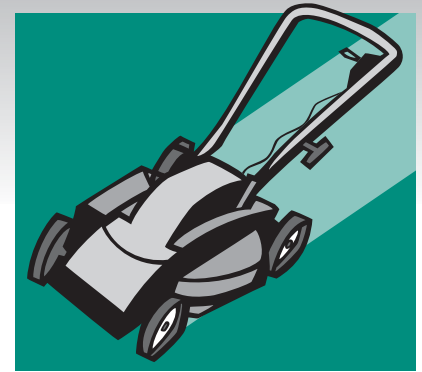
- **Garges Minor Subdivision:** Paul & Eileen Garges, 2-lot minor subdivision - Schoolhouse Road
- **Windy Heights Subdivision:** William & Phyllis Mann, 5-lot single-family residential subdivision - Keller Creamery Road
- **Knittel Minor Subdivision:** Patricia Knittel, 2-lot minor subdivision - Rising Sun Road
- **Miriam Halteman Minor Subdivision:** Miriam Halteman, 2-lot minor subdivision - Halteman Road

The following land developments have received preliminary approval:

- **Hopewell Christian Fellowship Land Development:** Church Expansion - Heath Road
- **Vistas at Highland Ridge-W.B. Homes, Inc.:** 26 single-family residential subdivision - Crestwood Drive & Hunsdicker Road

The following land developments/subdivisions are currently under review by the Planning Commission:

- **Reinford Subdivision:** Clarence Reinford, 8-lot subdivision - Godshall Road
- **Todd Walker Subdivision:** Todd Walker, 5-lot subdivision - Mininger Road
- **Donald & Linda Hagey Subdivision:** Donald & Linda Hagey, 3-lot subdivision - Schoolhouse Road
- **The Weimer Group Land Development:** Dean Wimmer, Conversion of a residential dwelling to office space - Schoolhouse Road & Route 113
- **Ken Taggart Subdivision:** Ken Taggart, 7-lot subdivision - Cowpath Road
- **Reformed Baptist Church Subdivision:** Reformed Baptist, 3-lot subdivision - Allentown Road
- **Earl Moyer Tract Minor Subdivision:** Kevin Hendricks, 2-lot minor subdivision - Keller Creamery Road & Hunsicker Road
- **Lincoln Woods Subdivision:** THP, 83-lot single-family residential subdivision - Kulp Road
- **Guidemark Industrial Subdivision:** Doug & Nancy Dolinar, 5-lot industrial subdivision - Lower Road 🌸



Time To Mow

Summer is just around the corner, which means its time to mow again. 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. 🌸



Lower Road, pictured here, will be the site of major road work this spring and summer in conjunction with the new high school.

2007 Road Construction Projects

- Installation of new water main on Reliance Road from Godshall to Cowpath — **March/April 2007**
- Overlay of Bergey Road from Telford Pike to Morwood Road — **Spring 2007**
- Installation of sanitary sewer, storm, gas, widening and curbing on Mininger Road from Cowpath to Elroy as part of Westport Farms Development — **Spring/Summer 2007**
- Improve all three turns on Lower Road between Moyer Road & Forman Road including widening, storm drainage, curbing and sanitary sewer installation — **Spring/Summer 2007**
- Chip Seal: Beck Road; Mininger Road (from Elroy to Allentown); Kingscote Development Phase 1 & 2 — **Summer 2007** 🌸

EventsCalendar

April 18 - May 13, 2007

NPWA Hydrant Flushing & Inspection

WHEN: 8:00PM - 4:00AM

WHERE: Throughout Franconia Township

Annual inspections and flushing of fire hydrants increase public safety by ensuring that hydrants will function when necessary. Flushing of hydrants also improves water quality. As a result of this procedure, some customers may notice a minor discoloration in the water and/or lower than normal water pressure. If discoloration occurs, run the cold water for a few minutes. If the water does not clear up, turn off the water for 10 to 20 minutes and try the procedure again. If problems persist, customers should contact the Authority office at 215-855-3617, between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM.

Saturday, April 21, 2007

S.A.V.E.'s Recycling Day & Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste & Computer Collection

WHEN: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

WHERE: Indian Valley Middle School
130 Maple Avenue
Harleysville, PA 19438

Household waste can harm the environment when not disposed of properly. Montgomery County will be holding its annual household hazardous waste collection day where you can safely dispose the hazardous materials your household may acquire. Acceptable items include:

- Auto products, household cleaners
- Paint products (oil based only), pool cleaners
- Lighter fluid, old computers & printers
- Textiles, paper (all types), cardboard, scrap metal, aluminum cans
- Ink cartridges, cell phones, tires (fee \$3.00 or \$4.00- w/rims)

Please bring the products in their original containers, keeping all lids tight. Wrap leaky containers in newspaper and a plastic bag. No latex or propane tanks. For more information please call SAVE 215-723-4989 or Montgomery County: 610-278-3618 or visit this website www.wsaemc.org and click on the recycling and HHW links.

Saturday, May 5, 2007

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 16th 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!

Monday Thru Friday, May 7-11, 2007

Montgomery County Senior Games

WHEN & WHERE: Various

The 22nd annual senior games will be held the week of May 7th to the 11th. Events will be held throughout the week at various locations in Montgomery County, culminating with an awards luncheon on Friday, May 11th, 2007. Any Montgomery County resident 50 years or older is eligible to participate. For more information or a schedule and registration packet (available in March), please go to www.upperdublin.net and click on "Parks and Recreation" and then "Seniors." Or call Philip Brady at 610-277-4312 or Mark Hudson at 215-643-3131 ext.268

Saturday, May 19, 2007

Franconia Township Clean-Up Day

WHEN: 7:00AM - 12:00 NOON

WHERE: J.P. Mascaro & Sons
Transfer Station
Lower & Wile Roads

Franconia Township has designated Saturday, May 19th, 2007 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 May 1st 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 2, 2007

Cure P.D. 5K Run

WHEN: 7:00AM — Registration
8:30AM — Race Begins

WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Starting Point & Registration)

Karen Pellak and her family will be holding the 4th Annual Cure P.D. 5K Run at Franconia Community Park. The details of the run have not yet been decided and will be forthcoming.

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mango Men

WHEN: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Alternate Location: In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be moved to an alternate site, which is still being confirmed at this time.)

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board is pleased to announce that the Mango Men will be back for their 6th annual concert in the park this summer. Please come out and join us on the lawn of the Franconia Community Park. There will be plenty of music, food, and fun!

Saturday, August 11, 2007

National Night Out Against Crime

WHEN: 5:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park
The Franconia Township Police Department will host the National Night Out Against Crime activities at Franconia Community Park on August 11th, 2007. There will be different exhibits, vendors, food, crime demonstrations and activities, as well as a car show for residents to enjoy.

Wednesday, August ??, 2007

Movie Night In The Park

WHEN: Dark

WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Rain Date: Thursday, August ??, 2007)
The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board will be holding their 3rd Annual Movie Night in the Park again this summer. Details to follow.

Resolve to Protect Your Drinking Water

From the well or the tap, the watershed is the source of your drinking water.

It's precious...

Water makes up three-quarters of our planet. Only 1% of all the water on earth is accessible and clean enough for our consumption. All people, plants, and animals must share this same 1% water supply.

Make every drop count...

A watershed is all the land that drains into a common waterbody, such as a stream, creek or lake. Preserving the Perkiomen River and its watershed means protecting your drinking water resources.

Resolve to do more...

- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as oil, cleaning supplies and paint-never pour them down any part of the storm sewer system and report anyone who does.
- Use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess runoff.
- Flush pet waste down the toilet.

Remember...small actions make a big difference. It's that easy. 🌱

Franconia Sewer Authority New Web Page

In an effort to keep Franconia's residents as informed as possible, the Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) will be launching a new web site. The site is currently under development and should be available in the next six to eight weeks. A link will be provided in the Township's web site (www.franconiatownship.org) as well as via direct access (www.franconiasewer.org). The new web site should be your one-stop for general sewer authority information, technical specifications, and billing information. 🌱

Sewer Management Plan Update

Phase II of the Township's Sewer Management Plan (SMP) has been completed. A draft report of the results will be provided soon. Once the information has been reviewed, a public meeting will be announced to share the findings with the residents in the Phase II area. A letter will be sent to residents informing them of the meeting time and location, along with their individual On-Lot Disposal System results (OLDS). Please DO NOT undertake any repairs to your OLDS at this time. Some areas may be targeted for public sewer installation – in which case money spent on upgrades to an OLDS will just be wasted.

Phase III of the SMP will begin this year. An informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th at Vernfield Elementary School at 7:00PM for those residents in the Phase III area. This is the final phase of the Township's three-year OLDS testing program. The SMP will remain in force to monitor OLDS pumping and to work with residents to upgrade failing OLDS (in areas where public sewer is unavailable). Proper waste water disposal – either through public sewers or properly functioning OLDS – is critical to the health and safety of Franconia's residents, as well as the environment in general. 🌱

Franconia Sewer Authority to Offer Discounts and Financing

Comments received from residents have prompted the Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) to develop a discount and financing policy to assist existing residents with the cost of public sewer extensions. Although the cost to install new public sewers is less than the cost to install a new On-Lot Disposal System (and generally less than the cost to make major repairs to an On-Lot), it can still be a major financial impact. FSA is offering discounts for early connection when public sewer becomes available; a 10% discount for paying the full cost up-front (5% for a 25% down payment), and financing, if needed, for 20 years. Residents affected by public sewer extensions will be provided with the specifics of the discounts and financing options. 🌱

Earlington Public Sewer Update

Franconia Township and Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) would like to thank the residents of the Earlington area for their participation in the public sewer extension process. Documentation has been submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and we are awaiting their approval. Meanwhile, work is progressing on the system design. The tentative timeline for construction to start has been adjusted. Construction will most likely start toward the end of this year or early next year. However, most of the system will have to be installed before any existing residents can connect to public sewer.

The cost per Earlington resident has been calculated at about \$18,000; however, with discounts (see the related article) the cost could be as low as \$15,125. No money is required until service is actually available – which is currently estimated to be late 2008 to early 2009. 🌱

A RECYCLING REMINDER



FROM THE NORTHERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING COMMISSION

What & How to Recycle

Aluminum, Steel & Bimetal Cans

All metal food, beverage and aerosol cans are recyclable. All other metal items such as, pots and pans, wire hangers are NOT recyclable. No lids or covers, just cans. Rinse out and crush aluminum cans if possible.

Glass - Clear, Amber & Green Glass

All glass food, beverage bottles and jars are recyclable. No lids or covers

Plastics Number 1 & 2

(HDPE & PETE)

Look for the number in the triangle on the bottom of plastic items. No lids, rinse out containers.

Newspapers, Magazines & Junk Mail

Tie in a bundle or place in a paper bag (Not in Plastic Bags)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Inlet Stenciling

In an effort to comply with regulations set forth in the DEP MS-4 Permit, Franconia Township is looking for inlet stenciling volunteers. The no dumping tiles are required to be affixed to all the inlets throughout the township. The township is searching for volunteers to perform this service. The materials and instructions will be supplied by the township. Please contact Jamie P. Worman at 215-723-1137 if you're interested.

NOTICE:

Any illicit discharge as defined in the township's stormwater ordinance is a violation of the code, and those who dump will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine.

Building Permits

Franconia Township requires building permits for any addition, alteration, demolition, enlargement, or new construction prior to any construction or improvements. Chimney, decks, fences, fireplaces or decorative heating stove, porches, patios, sheds, swimming pools, finished basements, and any remodeling job that requires dry wall and electric require building permits! Building permit applications are available at the township administrative office, Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM. Applications are completed and submitted to the township for the Zoning Officer and Building Inspector to review. A resident is notified when a permit is ready. When notified the applicant can come into the office and pay for the permit at the time of pick-up. The permits are good for one year but can be extended if requested. When the work is finished or at the point where an inspection is needed, the Building Inspector will come out and do an inspection of the project. Inspections can be scheduled by calling 215-723-1137.

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. Baver

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. Klepfier, D.A.R.E. / School Resource Officer

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

Franconia Township
671 Allentown Road
P.O. Box 128
Franconia PA 18924



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