

# Franc Talk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Winter 2007

## 275th Anniversary Wrap-Up

The 275th Anniversary committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered, sponsored, and participated in the anniversary celebration! The weather did not deter hundreds of residents from coming out to enjoy the 2 mile long parade that made its way down Route 113 on Saturday, September 23rd, 2006. A trolley, horse drawn carriages, different floats, fire engines, police vehicles and antique cars were among the many participants in the parade. The parade ended at the community park where Township Manager, Kevin D. Baver opened the community day celebration with a few remarks welcoming everyone and thanking the committee for all their work. U.S. Congressman Charles Dent, State Senator Stewart Greenleaf and State Representative Robert Godshall presented the township with proclamations recognizing this historic event. The community day had an assortment of different vendors ranging from crafts to

food to activities for children. The day's events ended with an "Officials" pie-eating contest. Roger Koffel, the Franconia Township Building Inspector took home first place in the pie-eating contest with Township Supervisor, Curtis Kratz coming in a close second. The community day and parade were a complete success. The day was capped off with a stunning fireworks display that could be seen all over the township. The township extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the committee members, police and emergency personnel, public works personnel and administrative staff members who made the event possible.

The township plans to officially close the event with some remarks and a slideshow

at their annual volunteer dinner in March. Anniversary pottery, which includes crocks, milk jugs, and Mason jar mugs, is still available for purchase at the township building. The pottery is \$20.00 and the mugs are \$3.00. You can stop by during normal office hours to purchase these items. The township building is opened Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM. 🌹

## Montgomery County "Green Futures" Recognizes Township

On October 25th, 2006 Franconia Township was awarded a Visionary Achievement Award for its farmland preservation. Nearly 700 acres of farmland has been permanently eliminated from potential development and represents 14 working farms. The award is part of an annual program developed by the "Green Futures" - a project of the Montgomery County Lands Trust.

Supervisor Curtis N. Kratz accepted the award on behalf of the township and stated that he is very proud of the accomplishments the township has achieved since implementing an open space fund in 2002 and plans to pursue other opportunities in Franconia Township as long as the support is available.

Ms. Dulcie Flaharty, Executive Director MCLT, nominated the township for its achievements and she hopes the township continues its successful preservation of open space - either through farmland preservation or public open space. To date over 300 acres of open space has been secured in conjunction with the preserved farms. 🌹



The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors was transported along the parade route by Dan Ruth and his horse drawn wagon.

## New Playground

Many of you may have noticed the new playground equipment at Branchwood Park. The playground was recently installed by the Franconia Township Public Works Department. Branchwood Park is a jointly owned park. It is owned by Franconia Township and Salford Township. There is a joint park commission made up of three members from Salford Township and three members from Franconia Township. This commission oversees the park and had voted this past summer to update the playground.

The group researched different playground equipment in neighboring municipal parks. Then they met to decide what type of amenities they felt would be best for the children that would use this equipment. They ended up with a design that combined many climbing activities with the traditional sliding board. After much debate they decided to include the climbing wall as part of the set rather than installing a separate piece. When their research and design was completed they contacted Gametime and ordered the playground set. The Public Works Director,

Paul Nice and the Assistant Township Manager, Jamie Worman, met with the regional representative from Gametime to map out the proper location of the equipment. A few weeks later the equipment arrived and the public works department installed it. The playground is now complete and ready for use. If you have not checked it out yet please stop by Branchwood Park and enjoy the new amenity. 🌿



## Officer Tim Boyle Named “Pennsylvania D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year”

In August of 2006, Officer Timothy P. Boyle was awarded the prestigious title of “D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year” by the Pennsylvania D.A.R.E. Officers Association. His selection was based on a nomination to the organization that detailed Boyle’s D.A.R.E. activities, his teaching abilities, and his dedication to furthering the values of drug abuse resistance education. He was recently featured in the October 25-31, 2006 edition of the Souderton Independent newspaper for his receipt of this award.

Officer Boyle joined the Franconia Police Department in January of 2001. He has taught the D.A.R.E. program at the West Broad Street Elementary school in Franconia Township since 2003. Tim was recently certified as a Mentor to teach officers statewide to be D.A.R.E. instructors.

Along with being a devoted D.A.R.E. officer, Tim is also a member of the police department’s Highway Safety Unit as well as the coordinator for the National Night Out Against Crime Celebration each August.



**PA D.A.R.E. Executive Board member Joseph Rudner, left, presents Officer Tim Boyle with his award. Officer David Klepfer, Franconia’s other D.A.R.E. officer, is on the right.**

He is also instrumental in organizing many other police-community partnership programs throughout the year.

The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors, Chief of Police Joseph Kozeniewski, and all of Tim’s fellow officers congratulate Officer Boyle for this award and his outstanding dedication to the D.A.R.E. program in Franconia Township. 🌿

**The public works department works hard at installing the new playground equipment at Branchwood Park.**

**The playground installation is complete and ready for business!**

## Christmas Tree Drop-Off

S.A.V.E. will be holding its annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program again this year from 9:00AM until 3:00PM on Saturday and Sunday, January 13th, 2007 and January 14th, 2007. You may drop off your Christmas trees at the

Franconia Community Park Basketball Court prior to this time or during the specified hours and dates. If you have any questions please contact Ken Hamilton at 215-721-1303. 🌿



# Franconia Township Hosts the IVCC Youth Community Leadership Program

On Friday, November 17th, 2006 Franconia Township hosted the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce's Youth Community Leadership Program. The program which is headed by Ella Roush of Roush Associates was established as a class project from the inaugural adult community leadership class. The youth class is made up of 14 sophomore students from Souderton High School, Christopher Dock High School and Northern Montgomery Technical School. They meet once a month for a full day to learn about different community services and to develop their skills in leadership. They met at the Franconia Township Building to learn about municipal government and law enforcement.

The day started off with a brief summary of local government by Assistant Township Manager, Jamie Worman. The students were asked to design a community and then discuss what items they felt were important in a community. The students were given a tour of the township building and learned about each position within the township administration department.



The youth leadership class looked over the township zoning map after designing their own communities.

They also toured the public works building and were given information regarding the role of the public works department within the township. Later they worked in groups to resolve hypothetical township issues. George Witmayer, Executive Director of the Franconia Sewer Authority, spoke to the group about leadership and being environmental stewards.

The afternoon was spent on law enforcement. Sergeant Jeff Gower gave an overview of the department and answered a few questions regarding crime. Officer Tim Boyle spoke to the students about the D.A.R.E. program. He explained to the group that the D.A.R.E. Program is looking to expand into the high schools. The students in the high school would act as mentors to the elementary school students who are involved with the program. The students expressed an interest in the mentoring program. Officer Chuck Stockert discussed the Bicycle Unit Patrol within the Franconia Township Police Department. He explained the different items on his bike and went through a few different scenarios on how to properly use the bike. The final speaker was Detective George Moyer. He gave a brief synopsis of his position within the department. He went through the steps he takes when solving a case. The students were very interested and asked many questions. The day ended with a tour of the police department. The township was very impressed with the group of students and was proud to support this important program.

## Discount Winter Ski Tickets

Franconia Township Park & Recreation Committee is again offering discount ski tickets this winter. 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 ski tickets the township carries:

- Bear Creek
- Blue Mountain
- Camelback
- Elk Mountain
- Big Boulder/Jack Frost
- Shawnee Mountain

For a complete list of prices please check out our website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org)



# Do's and Don'ts Around the Home

(TAKEN FROM AN EPA JOURNAL ARTICLE, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1991, EPA-22K-1005)

by Robert Goo

The importance of education in bringing nonpoint-source pollution under control is a recurring theme in this issue of EPA Journal. The reason for this is pragmatic: What you don't know can hurt the environment. When rain falls or snow melts, the seemingly negligible amounts of chemicals and other pollutants around your home and premises get picked up and carried via storm drains to surface waters. The ramifications include polluted drinking water, beach closings, and endangered wildlife.

So what can you do to help protect surface and ground waters from so-called nonpoint-source pollution? You can start at home. Begin by taking a close look at practices around your house that might be

contributing to polluted runoff: You may need to make some changes. The following are some specific tips to act on—dos and don'ts, organized by categories, to help you become part of the solution rather than part of the problem of nonpoint-source pollution.

## HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

- *Be aware that many chemicals commonly used around the home are toxic. Select less toxic alternatives. Use non-toxic substitutes wherever possible.*
- *Buy chemicals only in the amount you expect to use, and apply them only as directed. More is not better.*
- *Take unwanted household chemicals to*

*hazardous waste collection centers; do not pour them down the drain.*

*Pouring chemicals down the drain may disrupt your septic system or else contaminate treatment plant sludge.*

- *Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground. Soil cannot purify most chemicals, and they may eventually contaminate runoff.*
- *Use low-phosphate or phosphate-free detergents.*
- *Use water-based products whenever possible.*
- *Leftover household pesticide? Do not indiscriminately spray pesticides, either indoors or outdoors, where a pest problem has not been identified. Dispose of excess pesticides at hazardous waste collection centers.* 🌱

## Snow and Ice Removal

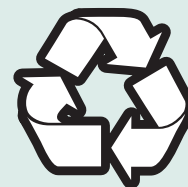
Winter is coming and with winter comes the chore of snow and ice removal! In spite of the many groans that ensue with the mention of the words snow removal, it is a necessary evil. It is the responsibility of all owners, tenants or occupants of occupied or unoccupied properties to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks surrounding the property within in 30 hours after the snow or sleet has ceased to fall. A pathway must be cleared in the sidewalk in the event of snow. The sidewalk must be covered with cinders, sawdust or similar snow and ice control materials in the event of ice and sleet. The pathway should not be less than 30 inches wide and it should be thoroughly cleared of snow or ice. The snow and ice may be piled on the curbside of the sidewalk, but it should not be piled in the gutter or cartway. The quick removal of snow from the sidewalks will help eliminate the safety hazards ice and snow can create. The following tips were compiled by the Partnership TMA.

## HELPFUL WINTER PREPARATION TIPS

- *Do not pile your snow into the streets. When the plow goes by, it will just go back into your driveway again!!*
- *To keep your driveway clean, either wait until the plow goes by or when facing your driveway, clear snow 10 feet to the right of the driveway. This will keep returning snow to a minimum.*
- *Do not pass or get between trucks plowing in a "plow line"*
- *Remain at least 6 car lengths behind an operating snow plow*
- *Move your trash cans away from the curb*
- *Turn your portable basketball rims away from the street*
- *Make sure your mailbox is 6 inches away from the face of the curb*
- *Do not park your car on snow emergency routes*
- *Be sure your car is properly winterized - full tank of gas, sufficient tread on tires, clean windshields, headlights and brake lights, emergency kit with blanket, flashers, salt or sand, flashlight, water and non-perishable food*

**The last tip — Please be patient the road crews are working diligently to tackle a big job!!!** 🌱

## 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**

# Sewers: What To Put In...What To Keep Out

Whether your property is connected to public sewer or you maintain an On-Lot Disposal System (OLDS) both are considered treatment systems. Proper management can minimize problems and reduce costs. In addition, managing your waste disposal will have a positive environmental impact on you and your neighbors. Here are three potential wastewater inputs and how they should be managed.

- 1) Water: All water generated from toilets, showers/baths, sinks, washing machines, and water softeners is required to be discharged into your wastewater system. However, water from rain gutters, floor drains/sump pumps (not from sewage-generating connections), foundation drains, and surface water must be kept OUT of sewer systems. Additionally, water from these sources must be directed around drain fields used with OLDS. Discharging sewage without proper treatment is a major health concern; adding rain and surface waters to sewage systems increases public sewer costs and can cause OLDS to fail
- 2) Solids: Sewage treatment systems are designed to treat solids to reduce health risks. Some solids pose no health risk and only overload treatment systems. Plastics, hair, bone, grease, etc. will break down either slowly or not at all in sewage treatment systems. That being the case, there is no benefit in washing them down the drain; only cost. These materials merely accumulate and have to be pumped out.
- 3) Chemicals: Pouring paints, pesticides, cleaning solvents, and the like can potentially damage the operation of the treatment system. Many of these

chemicals do not break down easily and so end up being discharged into the environment. That is bad when the wastewater effluent discharges to a stream, but scary when it enters the ground through an OLDS, where there is a risk that it could enter a well water aquifer.

Every resident needs to manage their wastewater to protect the environment and reduce costs. Make sure that all water that is supposed to be entering a treatment system does, and that non-sewage water stays out. Handle

garbage (plastic, bones, grease, etc.) as garbage and throw it into the trash. Use garbage disposals sparingly, if at all. Dispose of chemicals properly, never put them into a sewer treatment system.

If cost and environmental stewardship are not enough incentive to manage wastewater correctly, realize that there are State and local laws addressing the above points that carry substantial penalties. If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact George Witmayer, Executive Director of the Franconia Sewer Authority.

## Land Development/Subdivisions

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Glenn Clemmer Minor Subdivision:**  
*1-lot subdivision - 432 Delp Road Lane*
- **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:

- **J.I. Landis Welding & Mechanical Land Development:**  
*Jesse Landis, industrial building with office space - Hagey Road*

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

- **Hendricks Property Subdivision:**  
*Wilbur & Rebecca Hendricks, 8-lot subdivision - Godshall Road*
- **Reinford Subdivision:**  
*Clarence Reinford, 3-lot subdivision - Godshall Road*
- **Todd Walker Subdivision:**  
*Todd Walker, 5-lot subdivision - Minger Road*
- **Donald & Linda Hagey Subdivision:**  
*Donald & Linda Hagey, industrial 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*
- **Hopewell Christian Fellowship Land Development:**  
*Church expansion - Heath Road* 

# More Photos from the Franconia Township 275th Anniversary Celebration



**FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP**  
671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128  
Franconia PA 18924  
(215) 723-1137  
[www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org)

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Kevin D. Bayer

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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*  
Jerry Rittenhouse, *Building Inspector*  
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