

Franc Talk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Fall 2008

Lower Road Culvert Replacement Ribbon Cutting

Franconia Township officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, August 8th, 2008 to commemorate the installation of the new precast box culvert on Lower Road. The improvement included significant widening of Lower Road that now allows traffic to cross the bridge without yielding to oncoming traffic.

The project was made possible through funding efforts that State Representative Robert W. Godshall helped secure through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Road Turn-back and Bridge Program along with Impact Fees collected through various industrial developments and the SASD high school project. 🌹



Left to Right: Supervisor W. Keith Freed, Township Manager Kevin D. Bayer, PennDot Representative Charles Connelly, Supervisor Chairman Steve P. Barndt, Public Works Direct Paul R. Nice, Supervisor Curtis Kratz, Bob Iannozzi for State Representative Robert W. Godshall.

Preserved Farm Signs — Franconia Township

Have you noticed new road signs on Franconia farms? The Farm Preservation Program and the Farm Board recently started putting signs on farms stating that they are preserved. The Farm Board for a while had wanted to publicize the program with signs. It took many preparatory steps, but we finally installed signs on those preserved farms whose owners chose. The Farm Board thanks the County Department of Parks and Heritage Services, which installed the signs on each farm requesting one or more.

We polled all owners of preserved farms to ask how many signs they wanted. The choices were zero, one, or two. In Franconia, there are currently 13 preserved farms on 632 acres. Eight owners selected one sign each, and two selected two each. The rest have chosen not to have a sign

for now, but they may request one (or two) in the future. Upcoming farms to be preserved are now required to have a sign as part of the preservation process. The location will be selected when that farm goes to settlement for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement.

There are several reasons for using signs on preserved farms. Possibly the most significant is to show the public how their tax money is used. When a driver passes a farm and sees the sign, that person can know that he or she contributed tax dollars to a program providing a high quality of life to the region. In addition, the owner of the farm can illustrate the positive contribution made by keeping the land in agriculture. The sign has the words "This private farm..." meaning that the land is still private

property. A driver is invited to view the landscape, but the program does not allow for public access. There are other excellent Open Space programs which do allow public access on preserved land.

Citizens of Franconia should be proud to live in a community with so many active, productive farms, as well as other Open Space opportunities for recreation. The farms with signs now are the initial ones, but look for more signs throughout the years, as more owners join our program and as other farm owners install a road sign to illustrate this worthwhile program which benefits all citizens.

For more information about the farmland preservation program, you can contact Elizabeth Emlen at 610-278-3754 or by e-mail at eehlen@montcopa.org. 🌹

Franc Talk Notes

Landlords: Please remember to complete a landlord registration form. The forms can be picked up at the township office during normal business hours which are Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM.

Remember to Vote: Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on November 4, 2008. 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 Locations:

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 - Admin. Building)

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!

NOTICE: Any illicit discharge as defined in the Franconia Township Stormwater Ordinance is a violation of the code, and those who dump will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine. 

THE NORTHERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING COMMISSION
WANTS RESIDENTS TO KNOW:

REDUCE – REDUCE – REDUCE

SAVE Community Fall Recycling Day

October 18, 2008 • 9AM to 1PM

West Broad Street, Elementary School, Souderton, PA

SAVE will be accepting all types of paper, cardboard, auto tires (\$3 per tire or \$4 w/rim), scrap metal, clothing, car batteries, and cell phones. No computers, electronics or hazardous waste accepted.

Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

October 25, 2008 • 9AM to 3PM

Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley, PA

Please bring to collection sites for safe disposal.

- **Automotive Products:** Motor oil, transmission and brake fluid, antifreeze, gasoline & kerosene.
- **Household Products:** Drain and oven cleaners, spot remover, dry cleaning fluid and rug cleaner.
- **Paint Products:** Paint thinner or turpentine, paint remover, oil based paint, furniture stripper and furniture refinisher. **DO NOT BRING LATEX PAINT!**
- **Electronic Products:** Monitors, small televisions, computers, PDA's, printer and cell phones.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides:** **Please bring mercury containing devices.**
- **Miscellaneous:** Dyes, lighter fluids, photographic chemicals, concrete or asphalt sealers and swimming pool chemicals. **DO NOT BRING PROPANE CONTAINERS.**

Additional information contact Montgomery County
at 610-278-3618 or www.wsaemc.org.

REUSE – REUSE – REUSE

Reduce the amount of trash by buying Reusable Shopping Bags. The Reusable Shopping Bags are being sold by many stores near the checkout line. These bags can be wonderful if you remember to REUSE them. When you unload your purchases don't forget to return them to your car. With only a little effort you will be saving landfill space and protecting the environment.

RECYCLE – RECYCLE – RECYCLE

Be aware of the Leaf Collection Program for your municipality. Please contact your municipality as to when the collection process will begin. If your municipality utilizes a bagged leaf collection please know where to purchase the bags and when to place them at curbside for collection. Leaves placed in plastic bags, or other types of containers, will not be accepted. Please do not mix leaves with household trash.

What and How to RECYCLE for Curbside Collection

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 and 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.)

Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission Members are:

Ambler Borough, Franconia Township, Hatfield Borough, Hatfield Township,
Lower Gwynedd Township, Lower Salford Township, Montgomery Township, North Wales
Borough, Souderton Borough, Telford Borough and Towamencin Township

Public Sewer Update

The Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) is involved in a number of projects at this time. Following is a review of current projects and their status.

Earlington/Salford Township

Sewer line construction is underway in Phase I of the Earlington sewer project – Godshall Road from the Indian Creek to Morwood Road; Sunset Road from Morwood Road the rise in Sunset, and Morwood Road from Sunset to Allentown Road. Phase II of the project – Allentown Road from Morwood Road to the Branch Creek – has been advertised for bid. We are moving forward quickly to stay in front of PennDOT’s proposed paving of Morwood and Allentown Roads. Residents in the Phase I portion of the Earlington project will be able to get sewer service immediately after the sewer lines have been installed and inspected. Phase II residents will have to wait to connect even after the lines are installed and tested, until the pump station is constructed near the Branch Creek.

Two New Projects

The FSA is considering installing sewer lines in two additional areas that were identified as needing public sewer in the Sewer Management

Plan – Forrest Road between Cowpath Road and 4th Street, and Allentown Road from Indian Creek Road to Harvest Drive. Because of the PennDOT repaving, the FSA will try to move on these projects quickly. There is a lot of paperwork and permitting required, so these areas may not get completed in advance of the PennDOT work. A public meeting will be set up for residents in these project areas.

Mininger Road and Leslie Lane

All of the sewer lines in Mininger Road have been installed, tested, and are ready for use. All residents that are not connected to public sewer on Mininger Road should have received a letter informing them of their ability to connect (if not, please contact FSA). Leslie Lane sewer construction will commence in the Spring of 2009.

Reliance, Godshall, and Smokepipe Roads

Work has been completed on the sewer extension in Reliance and Smokepipe Roads. A small section still remains to be completed on Godshall Road. The FSA expects this work to be completed this year. As soon as construction and testing is completed for the entire project, affected residents will be notified of their ability to connect.

Morwood Area

The FSA’s primary focus has been on the new treatment plant and getting sewer lines in Allentown Road. The Morwood area will be our next major project. Some of the work being completed for Earlington will likely have a positive impact for the Morwood sewer project.

FSA Treatment Plant on the Skippack Creek

The treatment plant has been designed, all permits have been received, and the project was advertised for bid. The FSA will be reviewing the bids received and then award the contract. When completed, the plant will provide public sewer service for the Lower Skippack Basin portion of Franconia Township. This will include the industrial area between Lower and Souder Roads, as well as sewer service for the new High School and area residents. The treatment plant is expected to be operational in 2009.

For a complete listing of projects and considerations visit the FSA website at www.franconiasewer.org. Click on the “Sewer Locations and Planning” link on the left-hand side. 🌹



Left to Right: **Steven P. Barndt, Supervisor Chairman;** **Nancy Shelly, Park & Recreation Board;** **Robert W. Godshall, State Representative;** **Paul R. Nice, Public Works Director;** **Jamie P. Worman, Assistant Township Manager;** **W. Keith Freed, Supervisor.**

Forrest Meadow Park Pavilion Dedication Ceremony

On September 9th, 2008, Franconia Township Officials held a dedication ceremony where they officially named the Forrest Meadow Park Pavilion the Robert W. Godshall Pavilion. The pavilion was named in honor of State Representative Godshall as a token of the Township’s appreciation and gratitude for his unwavering support of this project and many others throughout the years. Representative Godshall has been instrumental in acquiring funding through different grant and state aid programs that has enabled the Township Supervisors to pursue various projects throughout the community. 🌹

Park and Recreation Summer Wrap-Up

The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board is wrapping up another summer season. This year the park provided a youth tennis clinic, sold discount amusement park tickets, and held the 7th Annual Mango Men Concert. In addition, the first phase of development at the Forrest Meadow Park is just about complete. Here is a wrap up of this year's events.

Youth Tennis Clinic

Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board organized a youth tennis program for the second time this summer. The tennis clinic was offered to two age groups during two weeks in the month of June. Monica Bach was the professional instructor recruited to administer the program again this year. Monica provided basic tennis instruction and activities to youngsters ranging in age from 5 to 12 years. The clinic was very successful and the Board hopes to offer this program again next summer.

7th Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park

The 7th Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park was held on Thursday, August 21st, 2008 after having been rained out in July. The concert was held at the Franconia Community Park before a banner crowd. The festive night in the park was a complete success, there was island music, dancing and food for all to enjoy! The Franconia Township Park and Recreation Board would like to thank Univest, Smithfield Beef, and Hagey Coach & Tours for sponsoring the concert. They would also like to thank the Mango Men for a terrific performance and congratulate them on winning the contest to open for Kenny Chesney! 🌹

The Mango Men perform at Franconia Community Park before another banner crowd.

Franconia Township 2008 Leaf Collection Program

Franconia Township will be continuing the leaf collection program again this year. The collection will be provided by J.P. Mascaro and will begin on November 20th, 2008. Important details are listed below along with a collection schedule. All questions/concerns should be directed to J.P. Mascaro at 1-800-444-6272.

- 1) Leaves must be placed in the biodegradable paper leaf bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted. Free Leaf bags can be obtained at the Township Building located at 671 Allentown Road, Franconia PA. The bags are available to Franconia Township residents only!! The office is opened Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM.*
- 2) The bags must only contain leaves. Other household refuse or yard waste cannot be intermixed with the leaves. Bags containing items other than leaves will not be picked up by the hauler.*
- 3) Place the leaf bags at the curb or street side where normal trash is picked up. The leaf bags and leaves will be picked up. The bags will not be dumped and returned.*

The Township has been divided into 2 sections for leaf collections. A map of the section can be viewed at the township office or on the township website at www.franconiatownship.org. Leaves will be collected between the hours of 6:00AM and 4:00PM on the following dates for the following sections.

SECTION 1: November 20th, December 4th, December 18th, and April 23rd - North East & South East portion of township from Allentown Road (Including Memory Ln & Harvest Dr.) to Route 113 out to Godshall Road, from Godshall Road out to the Telford & Souderton Borough Line and from Godshall Road down to Hatfield Township Line.

SECTION 2: November 21st, December 5th, December 19th, and April 24th - North West & South West portion of township from below Allentown Road down to Route 113 out to Lower Salford & Salford Township; Allentown Road from Route 113 down to Hatfield Township Line out to Lower Salford Township. 🌹



Land Development/Subdivisions

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Guidemark Industrial Subdivision/Land Development:** *Guidemark Inc., 5-lot subdivision (4 industrial lots; 1 existing residential lot) - Lower Road*
- **Lincoln Woods Land Development:** *T.H. Properties, 83-lot residential subdivision - Kulp Road*
- **Reformed Baptist Church:** *Reformed Baptist, 3-lot subdivision - Allentown Road*
- **Merrill Landes Minor Subdivision:** *Merrill Landes, 2-lot reverse residential subdivision and lot line adjustment - Clemens Road*
- **Allentown Road Lot Line Adjustment:** *Jeff Bagley, 1-lot line adjustment - Allentown Road*
- **Weimer Insurance Land Development:** *Dean Wimmer, commercial development of existing lot - Route 113 & Schoolhouse Road*
- **Leidy's Inc.:** *Tom Leidy, 2-lot consolidation and lot line adjustment - W. Cherry Lane*
- **Souderton Mennonite Home:** *SMH, lot line adjustment and parking lot expansion project - Colonial Avenue & Reliance Road*

The following land developments have received preliminary approval:

- **Synatek Land Development:** *Ken Clemmer, 1-lot industrial land development - Schoolhouse Road*

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

- **Todd Walker Subdivision:** *Todd Walker, 5-lot subdivision - Mininger Road*
- **Ken Taggart Subdivision:** *Ken Taggart, 7-lot subdivision - Cowpath Road*
- **MCC Resource Center Subdivision/Land Development:** *Mennonite Foundation, 2-lot industrial subdivision; 1-lot land development - Souder Road*
- **Souderton Self Storage:** *Limerick Properties, 1-lot limited industrial land development - Allentown Road & Souder Road*
- **The Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints:** *Church of Latter-Day Saints, construction of new sanctuary and associated parking - Route 113 & Maple Avenue* 🌹

Forrest Meadow Update

The phase one development of the Forrest Meadow Park is nearing completion. This summer the Franconia Township Public Works Department worked hard to complete the installation of the playground. A new pavilion was constructed at the park and is now available for reservations. The trees have been planted and other landscaping added to the park and the field and trail are complete. The final paving has been applied to the parking area and a new sign was added. Under the grant a new sign recognizing the site as a recipient of grant funding through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is required. The project was made possible through funding secured through the community partnership program grant issued by this department. The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors and the Park & Recreation Board would like to commend the Township Public Works Department on the tremendous job they did with the site development. In addition, they would like to thank State Representative Robert W. Godshall for his efforts in securing funding for this project along with his continued support of Franconia Township. 🌹

New Police Department Staff Member



The Franconia Township Police Department recently welcomed the newest member of its civilian staff. Pam Paraskewik joined the department as its Administrative Assistant in May of this year. She succeeds Janice Froshour, who has moved to a part-time clerical position with the police department.

Pam lives in Hatfield Township with her husband and two adult children. She had previously worked at Merck and Company in West Point where she developed her administrative skills. Her new position includes the organization of the police department case files, maintenance of the computer and the records management system, and providing assistance to the police officers with radio and phone duties.

Police Chief Joe Kozeniewski reports that Pam has been a wonderful addition to the police department. "She displays a very positive attitude with the officers and all visitors who come into the building. Pam has become a great asset to the police and the township," added the Chief. 🌹

Tips to Help Prevent the Break-In of Your Car

Through the summer months of this year, the township experienced an increase in break-ins of personal cars that were parked in the driveways of the homes of our residents. Many of the cars were left unlocked by the owners, and in a few cases, the keys were also left in the car. While the township enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the area, things do happen here. The Franconia Township Police Department offers these tips to help you thwart the possibility of being victimized:

- *Never leave your car unlocked overnight*
- *Take the keys into the house*
- *Remove all money. Yes, they will break into your car for the spare change!*
- *Don't leave laptop computers, cell phones, and PDA's in the car*
- *GPS navigation systems are a very popular theft item. Tell-tale signs like the suction cup holder for a GPS unit are an indicator for the thief to target your car. Take the unit into the house.*
- *Call 9-1-1 immediately if you believe that your car is being entered!*

Our officers are on duty 24 hours a day. Don't wait to call till the next morning after the thief is gone. We are glad to respond to your emergency call. 🌹

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) 723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1 or (215) 723-6777

Joseph S. Kozeniewski, *Chief*
Jeffrey C. Gower, *Sergeant / Patrol*
Corporal Edward P. Hall
Corporal Stephen S Rinker

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*



Check Out Our Website

The Franconia Township Police Department website provides helpful information for our residents. Click on <http://www.franconiatownship.org/> and then the Public Safety link on the left column. Here are some of the links and information sources that are here for you:

- **Request a Report:** You can request a copy of an incident or accident report by clicking the Incident Report button at the top of the page.
- **Vacation Notice:** Let us know that you will be away from home by completing the vacation notice tab.
- **Crime Statistics:** See what type of crime activity is taking place in the township. Copies of the Monthly and Annual Police Reports are in this section.
- **D.A.R.E.:** Our fourth grade Drug Abuse Resistance Education students can view their homework assignment for next week's D.A.R.E. class.
- **Megan's Law:** By clicking onto the Pennsylvania State Police link at the bottom of the page, you will be directed to the Megan's Law site that lists names and addresses of those offenders in our area. 🌹

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



PRSRKT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Souderton, PA
Permit #247