

FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Spring 2014

Township Receives ARLE Grant

Franconia Township was awarded a \$35,000.00 grant through the Pennsylvania Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Funding Program for a traffic signal improvement project located at Allentown Road (1001) and Lower Road (SR 1012). The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) administers the ARLE Funding Program, which was established in 2010. The intent of the program is to use the additional revenue generated by the automated red light enforcement to help fund transportation projects. These transportation projects must have a focus on safety and improve our local roadways. The Township submitted the application for funding in 2012 and received notification in 2013 that the project was approved.

The project focuses on the conditions at the Allentown Road and Lower Road intersection through modified signal timings and special applications of the existing signal equipment. This procedure will allow the Township to implement upgrades and enhance the safety and operational efficiency of the signalized intersection not only in this location but along the Route 113 corridor. These intersections include Allentown Road and Lower Road, and Route 113 at Allentown Road, Godshall Road, Cowpath Road, Indian Crest Middle School, and Reliance Road.

To date the Township has completed the activation of the dynamic max unit in the existing controller located at the Allentown Road and Lower Road intersection, and the addition of generator plugs at seven of our primary intersections giving us a total of nine intersections where we have backup power

should we need it. The remaining improvements are scheduled to be completed in 2014. These improvements include the addition of a radar dilemma zone and volume/density detection system on Route 113 at Schoolhouse Road to make the signal more responsive to traffic demands. In doing so, Route 113 would have an extended signal when

New Supervisor Elected

Franconia Township welcomed a new Supervisor at the annual reorganization meeting held Monday, January 6th, 2014. David B. Fazio joins the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors following his successful bid for the open spot in the November 5th, 2013 General Election. Former Supervisor, Drew Darrah, did not seek re-election in 2013 and completed his term in office on December 31st, 2013. Mr. Fazio, a former member of the United States Navy, has a background in technology that includes management, sales, and marketing. He has held numerous positions in the technology industry throughout his career and before retiring he ran a small technical company for 15 years. His company provided technical and business consulting services to small businesses and local townships.

Mr. Fazio served on the Franconia Township Zoning Hearing Board for six years. He has also served on the Kingsfield Homeowners Association Board. He was a member of the Lion's Club for several years. He has also volunteered his time with Meals on Wheels and the Bucks County Vocational

Schoolhouse Road is not in demand and, more importantly, to allow Schoolhouse Road to have an extended signal during the afternoon rush hour when the Souderton Area High School dismisses. The Township also plans to install GPS time clocks into all of the signals noted above in order to maintain coordination between those signals. 🌹

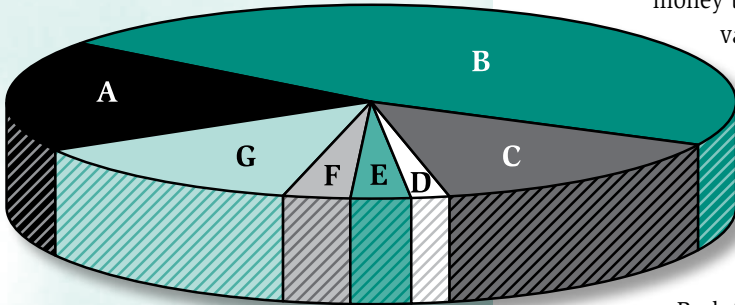


**New Township Supervisor,
David B. Fazio.**

Technical School teaching computer classes, to name a few. Mr. Fazio resides in the Kingsfield Development with his wife of 48 years. He has a daughter and a son and five grandchildren. His hobbies include woodworking, old vacuum tube radio reconditioning, salt water aquariums, amateur radio, gardening, and spending time with his family. Mr. Fazio commented that "through volunteering and contributing over the years, I find it personally rewarding to serve. I have worked and lived in Franconia Township for several years (since 2002), and it has meant a lot to me." 🌹

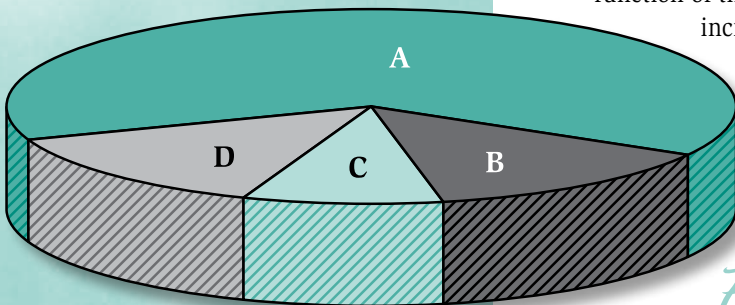
2014 Township Budget Approval

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$6.7 million 2014 General Fund Budget. The general purpose millage rate (1.15) was increased from the previous year by 0.15. The fire and library support remained unchanged at (.248) and (.150) respectively. The township 2014 millage rate was set at 1.548.



Expenses are allocated to the following departments:

- A) Administration: \$1,240,600**
- B) Police/Fire Protection: \$3,131,200**
- C) Public Works: \$946,400**
- D) Code Enforcement: \$112,800**
- E) Recreation: \$177,300**
- F) Debt Service: \$198,300**
- G) Interfund Transfers: \$849,800**



Revenue is from the following sources:

- A) Taxes (Real Estate, EMST, EIT): \$4,248,100**
- B) Intergovernmental Revenue: \$902,200**
- C) General Government: \$588,300**
- D) Operating Transfers: \$915,600**

Township Receives Grant for Rain Garden Project

Franconia Township was awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development through their Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program. The grant award included monies received from the Act 13 Legislation that takes profits made from the Marcellus Shale drilling and spreads the money throughout the state for various projects. The Assistant Township Manager, Jamie Worman, submitted a grant application for a rain garden project in the Franconia Community Park through this program and was notified that the application was selected for funding in November of 2013.

The rain garden project is a two phased project that will involve the creation of a bio-retention swale and rain gardens through the conversion of an existing grass swale. The first phase will include the conversion of the grass swale to a bio-retention swale by planting wet tolerant trees along the perimeter of the new 10-foot wide swale surface. The function of the new swale will be to increase transpiration. The second phase will include the creation of a rain garden. The

rain garden will be created off-line of the current swale corridor with a diversion inlet box placed upon the existing 24"x18" collecting storm pipe. The gardens will be graded to provide a flat surface area of approximately 6,000 square feet in two levels and consist of 12" deep certified soil mix into which riparian seed mix will be broadcasted along with plugs of specified wet tolerant plants with the two terraces bordered by shrubs. The garden areas will collect runoff and assist in the process of oxidation of the nitrogen and transpiration and volume diminishment.

The park is located within the impaired Indian Creek Watershed. The Township believes that this visible location for the rain garden will provide the opportunity to install signage and information to park patrons about how rain gardens operate and the benefits they provide. The rain garden will also enhance the park allowing for new plantings and vegetation. It will provide a peaceful and aesthetic improvement to the park. It will also serve the greater purpose of helping manage stormwater runoff and reduce pollutants.

The project design is currently being finalized. The project is anticipated to begin this spring with a completion date in late 2014, schedules permitting. The grant is a 50/50 match and the amount awarded for the project is \$22,593.00. 🌱


Recycling in Franconia Township

Franconia Township requires recycling by all entities existing within the municipality. According to Chapter 115, Article I, Section 115-1 through 115-13 of the Franconia Township Codebook, all homes, apartments and other residential establishments are required to separate and recycle the following: clear glass, colored glass, newsprint (including newspaper inserts, junk mail and telephone books), aluminum cans, steel cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics and No. 2 HDPE plastics. Commercial establishments are required to separate and recycle the following: corrugated paper, high-grade office paper, aluminum cans and yard waste. Hospitality establishments, which include restaurants and taverns, shall be required to separate and recycle the following: cardboard, office paper, newspaper (including newspaper inserts, junk mail and telephone books), aluminum cans, steel cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics and No. 2 HDPE plastics. Also, recycling containers shall be provided

Cowpath / Godshall / West Broad Intersection Realignment Project Update

PennDot held a pre-construction meeting for the upcoming Cowpath/Godshall/West Broad Intersection Realignment Project on Monday, March 3rd, 2014. The following tentative schedule was presented at the meeting.

- **March 10th, 2014** - Clearing and grubbing of the site will start
- **March 11th, 2014** - Staging and signage will be added
- **March 17th, 2014** - Lane restrictions will begin
- **June 10th, 2014** - Detour will start for the bridge work (this date will be adjusted to coincide with the last day of school for the Souderton Area School District)

Detour is expected to be in place until November 2014. The Township will continue to provide updated information as received. Please visit the Township website for updated project information at www.franconiatownship.org. 

Recycling *(cont. from p. 2)*

at all community events attended by 200 or more people. Recycling bins are available for all residents at the Township Building located on Allentown Road. Individual waste haulers operating within Franconia Township are also required to offer a curbside leaf waste collection program. The leaf collection program itself, is an effort by the Township to implement a program where residents can dispose of leaf waste through a curbside collection. Act 101 defines “leaf waste” as “leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings, and similar material, but not including grass clippings.” 

Why a Flat Rate for FSA-Residential Customers?

The Franconia Sewer Authority, along with any other Municipal Authority in Pennsylvania, is required to operate under a set of laws known as the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act. Under this Act, sewer authorities can divide their customers into five basic classes – residential, industrial, institutional, commercial, and bulk. Within these classes all customers – by law – must be treated the same. Herein lies the dilemma. About half of our residential customers are also on public water; the other half use private wells. Public water is metered, private wells are not. Therefore, to treat all residential customers the same, we cannot – by law – charge some residents based on water use and others on a flat rate. It must be one way or the other.


The next question that usually comes up is whether or not FSA can require private wells to be metered. Although this is a possibility, the initial cost to set up each household on a well meter is substantial. Once the meters are installed, they would have to be read, tested, and maintained. All of these costs would be entered into the cost to operate the

FSA, and so overall costs would go up – something that neither FSA nor our customers like to see.

The final issue that is often overlooked by public sewer customers is that metering is not necessarily a more fair way to bill users of a public sewer system. Remember, for residential users meters are not put on the pipe leaving the house, but on the clear water coming in. Therefore, in a metered billing system such things as washing a car or watering a lawn, though not adding to household sewage, would be billed as though it was.

Similarly, not all wastewater in private residences comes from metered fresh water. Sump pumps, rain gutters, and other non-sewer sources often end up in public sewer – even though this is illegal. In addition, underground piping carrying sewer from your house to the main often separates at joints, or cracks, allowing groundwater into the system. FSA tracks flow data – not on individual houses but rather for large “sub basins” within the Township and we know that 15-20% of our water flow during rain storms is due to this outside water getting in.

Finally, flow is only one part of the cost equation for treating waste water. Loading is a much larger concern. The use of garbage disposals, for example, can drive the treatment cost up per household by 18%. Anything dirtier than drinking water going down the drain drives up the FSA treatment cost.

So, what can you do to help reduce costs? Where ever possible use low-water fixtures. This will reduce waste water flow (though not loading). Make sure that rain gutters discharge onto the ground or a specific storm sewer line (our Public Works and/or Code Enforcement personnel can help you with this). Sump pumps also need to be pulled from sewer drains and discharge to the lawn or storm sewer pipe. To reduce loading, remove or don't use your garbage disposal – garbage should be thrown into the garbage. Wipe down dirty dishes before putting them into the dishwasher. Don't put spoiled food or unused chemicals down the drain either. These items may be able to go into your regular trash, or there may be special locations designated to take these wastes. 

Reducing Runoff: Clean Water is Every Resident's Responsibility

This article was recently featured in the "Township Today" publication:

The next time it rains or when the snow starts melting with the approach of spring, take a look outside. There, you'll see water trickling over your lawn, down your driveway, and into the street.

To some, this may be a calming sight. However, for anyone who knows anything about runoff, this is an alarming event because as the water flows over land, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and carries them to nearby streams, wetlands, lakes, and storm sewer systems. There, the runoff is discharged, untreated, into the water we all use for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

As a result, stormwater runoff is one of the greatest threats to the nation's water supplies.

Instead of being part of the problem, though, township residents can be part of the solution by practicing healthy household habits that can keep common pollutants, including pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids, off the ground and out of stormwater.

We've pulled together some suggestions to help you get started:

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and, eventually, local waters.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Be sure to clean up any spilled fluids with an absorbent material, such as kitty litter or sand, and remember: Don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain; instead, dispose of the absorbent material properly.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, follow the guidelines for the recommended amounts.

Also, avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into local streams.


- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas, and compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't overwater your lawn and only water during the cool times of the day. In addition, don't let the water run into the storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch that are being used for landscaping projects to prevent pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterways. Also, vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, look around for the nearest storm drains to be sure to protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris, such as concrete and mortar.
- Use the smallest amount possible of

hazardous substances, such as paint, solvents, and cleaners, and make sure you follow the directions on the label.

- Clean spills immediately and dispose of the waste safely. Homeowners should store substance properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in an indoor sink, not outside. Also, filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. One way to properly dispose of excess paints is through a household hazardous waste collection program. Unused paint can also be donated to local organizations.
- Reduce the paved areas and increase the vegetated areas in your yard. Also, use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Homeowners should also consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and take others steps to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

(Note: This information was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.) 

2014 Police-Community Events

SPECIAL NEEDS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 10, 2014, 10AM – 1PM
Police Department – 671 Allentown Road

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Tuesday, August 5, 2014, 6 – 9PM
Franconia Community Park – Allentown Road

Ongoing FREE Police Department Community Programs:

DRUG DISPOSAL DROP BOX

FREE and ANONYMOUS disposal of your unwanted, expired drugs. Located in the lobby of the Police Department. Open during business hours.

SPECIAL NEEDS IN-HOUSE REGISTRY

Register your loved ones for FREE so that we have important information before we may need it in an emergency. Form available online.

BUSINESS EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

We keep important info on file for those after-hours emergencies. Remember to keep your information current. Form available online.

FACEBOOK

Get safety tips, important alerts, and stay up-to-date by following us on Facebook. www.Facebook.com/franconiapolice. 

Events Calendar

Saturday, May 3, 2014

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 23rd, 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!

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Franconia Township Clean-Up Day

WHEN: 7:00AM - 11:45AM

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

Franconia Township has designated Saturday, May 17th, 2014 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 Friday, April 11th 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!

Mon.-Thu., June 16-19, 2014

(Rain Date: Fri., June 20, 2014)

Mon.-Thu., June 30-July 3, 2014

(Rain Date: Fri., July 4, 2014)

Mon.-Thu., July 21-24, 2014

(Rain Date: Fri., July 25, 2014)

- Teen Camp

Mon.-Thu., August 4-7, 2014

(Rain Date: Fri., August 8, 2014)

Youth Tennis Camp

WHEN: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park Tennis Court

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board will be providing a youth tennis camps this summer! The camp will be for children age 6-12 years old. Skilled instruction will be provided by Monica Bach. The cost of the clinic is \$85.00 per person. If you are interested in developing your tennis skills this is the camp for you! Just bring a tennis racket and join in on the fun! Please check in with the township or the website to get an updated status on this program along with the dates and time of the clinic.

July 7-10, 2014

Youth Sports Camp

WHEN: 9:00AM - 12:30PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

RAIN DATE: Fri., July 11, 2014

The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board will be providing a youth sports camp this summer! The camp will be for children ages 7-14 years old. Skilled instruction will be provided by Steve Wherry and his staff. The camp will consist of various sports and activities with a main focus on tennis and ultimate Frisbee. The cost of the camp is \$100.00 per person. If you are interested please register at the Township Office beginning June 1st, 2014 and check out our website for additional information at www.franconiatownship.org.

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mango Men Concert in the Park

WHEN: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board is pleased to announce the return of the Mango Men! The Mango

Men will be the featured performer at the annual summer concert in the park! The Mango Men Band will take you on a musical journey starting at the Jersey shore and ending up in Key West! Please come out and join us on the lawn of the Franconia Community Park. There will be plenty of music, food, and fun!

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

National Night Out Against Crime

WHEN: 6:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

RAIN DATE: Wed., August 6, 2014

The Franconia Township Police Department will be hosting its 18th Annual Night Out Against Crime celebration. This is an annual worldwide event in which law enforcement agencies, local officials, local businesses, and citizens get together to increase anti-crime awareness and strengthen community partnerships. It will be a fun filled family night with emergency equipment demonstrations, car show, give-aways, basket raffle, food and refreshments. For more information visit the police website. If your organization would like to participate, please contact Janice Frary at 215-723-6777.

Sunday, October 5, 2014

4th Annual Souderton 5-Miler

WHEN: 9:00AM

WHERE: Souderton High School

The 4th Annual Souderton 5 Miler will be on October 5, 2014 at 9:00AM. All proceeds benefit The Tracy Hottenstein Scholarship and Leukemia/Lymphoma Society (Eastern Chapter). A 1-mile walk and a kid's fun run will also be held on the school grounds as well. Registration forms will be available at the township. Non-perishable food items will be collected at the run to benefit the Keystone Opportunity Center, a local food pantry to help local families in need.

What Causes Sewer Rates to Increase?

After much deliberation and community participation, the Franconia Sewer Authority adopted its 2014 budget at a special meeting in December. The approved budget will require an increase in quarterly charges to residential customers of twenty dollars (\$20.00). A similar increase will be implemented for non-residential customers. This increase will be seen in the billings, which will be sent in early April. The Authority has attempted to inform its customers of the increase through local newspapers, a note on our most recent billing, and now through Franc Talk. The article below provides some background on the need for an increase.

A quick answer as to why sewer rates increase is that the Franconia Sewer Authority, like everyone else, is subject to price increases for the goods and services that they purchase. Granted, our "shopping cart" of goods and services is different from the average consumer – you are not buying large quantities of aluminum sulfate or propylene glycol – so our "Consumer Price Index" will likely be different, too. If you are looking for a more detailed answer, read on.

First, it should be understood that Franconia Sewer Authority – like any other municipal authority in Pennsylvania – is in essence a not-for-profit organization. The Authority sets its rates to cover its costs. In fact, it is obligated to pass a balanced budget with income matching

expenses. The Authority Board members estimate operating expenses and try to determine the cost of upcoming system repairs or upgrades – that establishes the expense side of the equation. Then, those costs are divided among the customers to establish a quarterly rate.

Some municipalities are served by "for profit" organizations. These organizations are established to turn a profit for their shareholders. These organizations have to apply to the Public Utility Commission for rate increases to protect consumers from the possibility of getting hit with rate increases for the sole purpose of increasing the shareholders' income. Authorities – like Franconia Sewer Authority – will almost always have the word "Authority" in their name so consumers can be aware of their status.

Another major factor that weighs heavily on treatment costs is ever-more-stringent treatment requirements. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) enforces environmental standards implemented by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Although these environmental standard changes may sound minor, they can add substantial costs to waste water treatment operations – both public and private. And when these costs go up who pays? The customer. In rough numbers reducing phosphorus discharge into a stream from 0.2 ppm to 0.1 ppm adds about 15% to the cost to treat. In addition,

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Steven P. Barndt, *Supervisor*

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Kevin D. Baver

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Administration (215) 723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1

Joseph S. Kozeniewski, *Chief*
Stephen Rinker, *Sergeant / Patrol*

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*

major capital dollars have to be expended. How do we know? Because this is what has happened to FSA recently; and this is just one example. We (and our municipal partners who also treat waste water from Franconia Township) are required to substantially reduce organic matter, ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, solids, and phosphorus prior to discharging the waste water to a stream. Any increase in the treatment required will obviously mean an increase in cost. FSA does engage in discussions with PADEP to minimize any unnecessary limit changes, but this does not always provide a favorable outcome. 🌸

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email or view it on the township website rather than receive a paper copy please contact the township office to sign-up and remove your name from the mailing list.

Franconia Township
671 Allentown Road
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