

# franc talk



October 2017

## Remembering David R. Smith

Franconia lost a dear colleague and friend, David R. Smith, last month. Dave was a longtime member of our Public Works Department. He died after being struck by a car while painting traffic lines.

David left behind his wife, Karen, and four children, Matt, Derrick, Jason and Allison. He also left behind many friends at Franconia Township, where he was a mainstay of our Public Works Department.



*Dave Smith with his family.*

To say he will be missed does not do justice to the contributions Dave made to our community. Dave graduated from North Penn High School in 1982 and joined our Public Works team in 1989. He was working with another member of Public Works, Jeffrey Moyer, at the time of the accident. Jeff was seriously injured and is recovering at Temple University Hospital.

Dave was a big part of our community. He was a coach, volunteer and umpire for the Souderton Baseball League. He was also a big supporter of his daughter's gymnastics and Souderton Area High School football, where a son played.

The Smith Family and the Moyer Family remain in our thoughts and prayers. After the accident, the Township received an outpouring of support from people near and far. The Township is blessed to be part of a community that cares about the most important part of life – people.

The Township thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers in support of the Smith Family, the Moyer Family and the Township Family. It is hard to express how much it meant.

- Board of Supervisors Chairman Grey Godshall

### FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road  
Telford, PA 18969-2205  
215-723-1137  
www.franconiatownship.org

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Grey R. Godshall, Chairman  
David B. Fazio, First Vice Chairman  
Robert H. Nice, Second Vice Chairman  
Dr. Charles Amuso, Supervisor  
Curtis N. Kratz, Supervisor

### TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jon A. Hammer

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration 215-723-6777  
Emergency 9-1-1  
Joseph Kozeniewski, Chief  
George H. Moyer III, Sergeant/Detective Division

### BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

215-723-1137  
Roger M. Koffel,  
Code Enforcement Director  
Jerry Rittenhouse, Building  
Inspector/Code Enforcement Director

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

215-723-1153  
Paul R. Nice, Public Works Director



October 2017

franc talk



## News From The Franconia Police Department

### Use of police department social media

Recently, the police department has received notifications of possible crimes in progress through social media. Residents have posted notices on our Facebook page or sent an email to the department main desk. Most have been posted during the late night or early morning hours to report suspicious persons or disturbances. Fortunately, none of these incidents involved any injury or substantial loss of property.

Our Facebook and Twitter accounts as well as our department email system are not monitored 24 hours a day. The message may sit until the office staff reads it the following day.

Residents are urged to report all issues by telephone. Emergencies and suspicious happenings can be easily reported by pressing 9-1-1. This will assure that the on-duty officers can respond in a prompt manner.

### Naloxone update

Since the department started carrying the Naloxone inhalers in their patrol vehicles in January, our officers have successfully resuscitated two persons on different occasions who were in the serious throes of opioid drug overdoses. Because of the quick responses by Corporal Steve Cronin and Officer Jim Throop, they were able to administer the Naloxone in time to avoid what could have been sad outcomes. Great job by both officers.

### Prescription drug drop-off box

Residents are welcome to discard their unused or expired prescription medications at the police department. There is a convenient, secure green container in the station lobby where the items can

be deposited. The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

### Officers in our schools

Last May, members of the police department served lunch to the students at Franconia Elementary School. The surprised students gladly took their hot lunch servings from the officers. The ice cream bar was a special treat. Those in the Chief's line were rewarded with extra sprinkles and cherries on top of their sundaes.



Our officers participated in the Walk for First Responders at the West Broad Street elementary School on May 24. The students raised funds through pledges from friends and family. The funds that were donated to the department will be used for our annual Christmas Shop With a Cop event in December.



October 2017

franc talk

## Tax Collector Retiring

Since January, 2003, Jerry DeLong has served as tax collector for Franconia Township, collecting taxes, issuing tax certifications, and helping residents any way he can.



Jerry's term as tax collector is ending this January after he decided not to run for another term, opting instead to spend more time with his family.

"Jerry will be greatly missed," said Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Grey Godshall. "I would like to thank him for his service to the residents

of Franconia Township and wish him well in his retirement."

A tax collector is not always the favorite person in a community, but Jerry was quickly embraced by township residents for his warm smile and willingness to help.

"I just always enjoyed working with the residents of Franconia Township," Jerry said. "We have such an outstanding staff and a Board of Supervisors that is so committed to the community. Coming into the tax office was always an enjoyable experience for me."

As an elected position, a new tax collector will be chosen at the election on November 7.

## Sign Up For The Township's Email Newsletter

The Township's email newsletter delivers updates on activities, news and meetings right to your inbox.

To subscribe, just visit the Township's website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org).

Your address will only be used for the Township's email newsletters.

You can also keep informed by following the Township on Twitter at @FranconiaTwp.



# A Message From The Township Manager



With fall here and the weather eventually turning colder, it's time to think about two of the bigger topics in municipal government: snow plowing and budgets.

When I arrived as township manager, the one thing I consistently heard from residents was how well the roads were plowed after a snowfall. It's so nice to receive such compliments from residents, as the township has invested much time and effort into our Public Works Department to keep the streets cleared, our parks kept in meticulous condition, and a first rate trail system. I often challenge people to find a pothole anywhere on a local township road....and people are hard pressed to find one!

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to host many of the Township Managers from throughout Montgomery County for a meeting at the Franconia Township Municipal Building. The consistent comments I received were how well the roads were maintained and how beautiful our park and trail system was. I told

them our goal is simple, to provide excellent local government services at a low tax rate.

Every day, the staff at Franconia Township handles dozens of phone calls, walk-ins and inquiries from residents on a variety of subjects. Phone calls are answered promptly, and walk-ins are always greeted with a smile. The township staff genuinely enjoys working with and helping the residents of the community. That synergy and openness between township staff and residents is part of what makes Franconia Township such a special place.

And while our focus will always be on providing excellent services for residents, we are equally as proud of keeping a low tax rate. In previous Franc Talk issues, we reported on how our tax millage is just a fraction of that of our surrounding communities. When you add in the fact that in 2016, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf recognized Franconia as the 10th safest community in Pennsylvania – you'd be hard pressed to find any like-sized community in Pennsylvania with its own police department



October 2017

# franc talk

that has a lower tax rate and a lower crime rate.

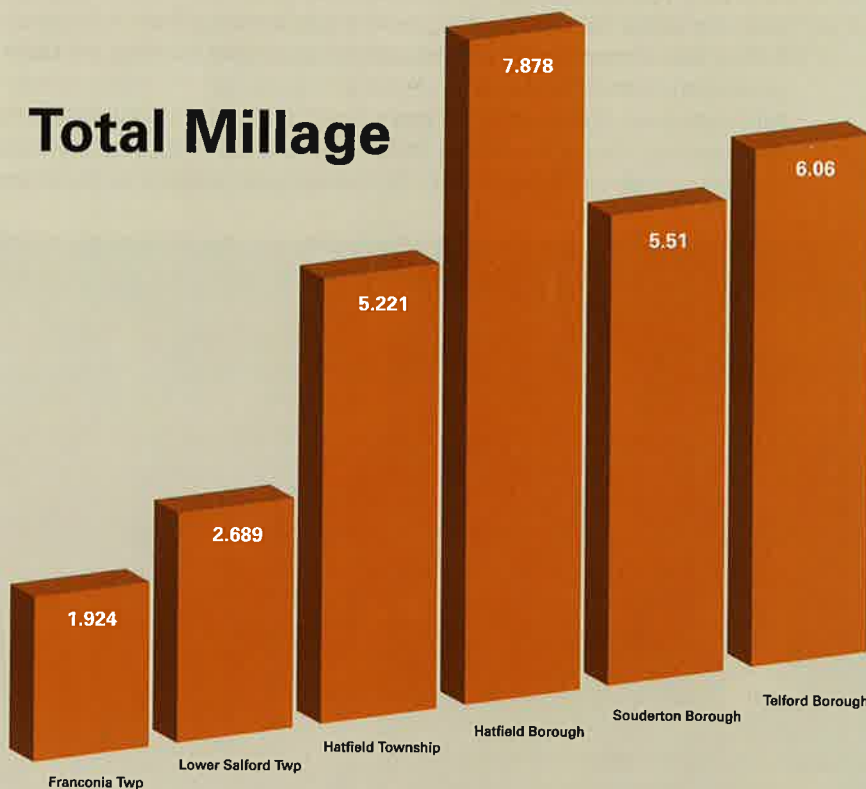
But what makes Franconia so special is the people. Decades ago, long before preserving open space became trendy in local government, the residents and Board of Supervisors recognized the need to preserve the beauty and heritage of Franconia Township. Make no mistake, residential developers find Franconia to be an extremely desirable location. Without the foresight to preserve open space, Franconia would be a very different place today.

As we move forward into 2018 and beyond, the plan is to continue to keep Franconia a wonderful community in which to raise a family. The township is currently in the process of updating its open space plan to preserve even more open space and keep our environment clean for generations to come. Part of the plan will be to expand the park and trail system for those who enjoy either passive or active recreation. There will be a public participation component to the plan so we look forward to your input!

Lastly, we encourage you to join us on Twitter and Facebook, and please sign up for our electronic newsletter. We take great pride in being recognized as an open and transparent government. Our website is updated regularly, where you can find the most recent audited financial statements, our Act 537 Sewer Plan, and our MS4 Storm water management plan.

I send a special thank you to all of the residents, staff and Board of Supervisors for making Franconia such a wonderful community!

## Total Millage





October 2017

franc talk

## Montgomery County Fights The Opioid Epidemic

According to reports from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol, the number of deaths and overdoses from the abuse of opioid drugs in the United States has reached epidemic proportions. Both of these offices, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Health, have undertaken steps to combat the situation through education, prevention, emergency treatment, and referrals to qualified treatment centers.

Every community has been affected by the abuse, which usually involves the ingestion of prescription pills and/or the injections of heroin and fentanyl drugs. Franconia Township Police and EMS crews have responded to several overdoses in 2017. Three of those have resulted in the deaths of the victims. However, officers from the department have successfully revived four other victims by administering Naloxone to counteract the effects of the opioids.

The township has partnered with these agencies to provide assistance to our community:

- If you find someone in the midst of an overdose, call 9-1-1 immediately. Remember that every second of delay in calling can lessen the chances of emergency treatment and eventual recovery for the victim.
- Use the Drug-Take-Back Program: a secure drop box is located in the lobby of the Township Police Department. Residents are encouraged to drop off their unwanted or expired prescription medications.
- All Franconia police officers have been trained to administer the Naloxone life-saving medication. Supplies of the Naloxone are carried in every police car in Montgomery County.
- Providing referral information for treatment centers to families in crisis.

Montgomery County has issued a Help Starts Here referral card that is distributed by the local municipalities. Here are a few of the recommendations:

- Call the state hotline PA GET HELP NOW at 1-800-662-HELP (4357)
- Naloxone (the brand name is Narcan) is available to family members at the Montgomery County Health Centers.
  - Eastern Court House Annex in Willow Grove: 215-784-5415
  - Norristown 610-278-5145
  - Pottstown 610-970-5040
- Seek help now at one of the Case Management sites:
  - Gaudenzia – Willow Grove 215-433-1634
  - Gaudenzia – Norristown 610-279-4262
  - Creative Health Services – Pottstown 610-327-1503

**For more information visit:**

**Montgomery County Health Department**  
[www.montcopa.org/overdoseprevention](http://www.montcopa.org/overdoseprevention)

**Pennsylvania Department of Health**  
<http://www.health.pa.gov/>

**United States Department of Health and Human Services**  
<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SAMHSA-Opioid-Overdose-Prevention-Toolkit/SMA16-4742>



October 2017

franc talk

## Public Works Department Takes Pride In Parks

This summer, the Public Works Department was very busy maintaining our expansive park and trail system. Many thanks to all of the residents for the many compliments we received for keeping everything well maintained – from mowing grass to making repairs, to ensuring playground equipment is safe for our children. The Public Works staff takes great pride in keeping everything looking good.

Aside from parks and trails, Public Works embarked upon one of our most aggressive years with road paving. Keeping our roads safe continues to be a priority and is something we take great pride in.

With winter arriving, we need to remind you to prepare for the inevitable upcoming change in weather from liquid precipitation to that dreaded black ice and snow.

We are located in a region where weather can change quickly. In the winter time, precipitation can produce snow, rain or freezing rain – and driving conditions

can go from dry to wet to treacherous very quickly.

The Franconia Highway Department is under contract with PennDOT for winter maintenance of all state highways within the township, along with our township-owned roadways, giving us a total of 80 single-lane miles to keep safe. This total needs to be doubled to complete one pass when plowing open the roadways and a second pass to widen and clean up intersections.

We always appreciate when you give us room to get our job done so we can be out of the way and traffic can flow more freely.

We ask that each one of you please do your part in paying attention to temperatures and road conditions as you travel over the fall and winter months. We, as highway personnel, will continue to do our best in keeping the roadways safe to travel.





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### **SUPERVISORS FOCUS ON GOOD SERVICE AND LOW TAXES**

In Franconia Township, our goal is very simple, to provide outstanding local government services at a low tax rate.

We continue to be recognized as one of the safest communities in Pennsylvania. In 2016, we were named by Governor Tom Wolf as being the 10th safest community in the state. Our current real estate tax rate is just a fraction of that of our neighboring communities.

We are a leader in Montgomery County in open space preservation and take great pride in preserving the history and heritage of Franconia Township.

While we are proud of our accomplishments, we continually strive to do better. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us. We are happy to help!

### **THE FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Mr. Grey Godshall, Chairman**  
**Dr. Charles Amuso**  
**Mr. David Fazio**  
**Mr. Curtis Kratz**  
**Mr. Robert Nice**

