

franc talk



LET'S ALL CONTINUE TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

Jon Hammer, Township Manager

Many of us grew up in an era where we got our information from the six-o'clock news from Channel 3, 6 or 10. We devoured the box scores from the morning paper to see if the Phillies were moving up in the standings. For many kids, the highlight of the day was playing wiffleball after school or riding bikes down to the local park. Neighborhood kids would play together, not knowing if their families were democrats or republicans, rich or poor, or what their stance was on the political issue of the day. Nor caring. We cared about each other and our community. Neighbors would talk with each other when out cutting the grass and bring a meal over if a family member was sick. That's what good neighbors do.

Our Township Supervisors Grey Godshall, David Fazio, Robert Nice, Dr. Charles Amuso and Jill Halteman work hard to ensure Franconia Township remains a community of good neighbors. Franconia Township takes great pride in providing outstanding local government services, the type of services that are important to you, your family, and your neighbors:

1. Franconia Township's municipal real estate taxes are very low when compared to like-sized municipalities in our region.
2. Safety – we are consistently recognized as one of the safest communities in Pennsylvania.
3. Clean and safe parks for both active and passive recreation, along with miles of interconnected walking trails.
4. Financially strong with virtually no municipal debt. Franconia Township is one of very few municipalities that posts their independent financial audit on their township website for complete fiscal transparency.
5. More preserved open space than just about anywhere. With communities everywhere being overdeveloped, we enjoy preserving open space for the good of our environment and for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

For Franconia, I firmly believe that our greatest strength is that we still care about our neighbors and our community. We care about providing the type of services that make our

continued on page 3



Spring 2025 IN THIS ISSUE

Township Information.....	3
A Township Rich in Local Farm Products.....	4
Franconia Township Police Department's Commitment to Community	6-8
Information From Public Works	10
2025 Township Road Construction Projects	10
What Do I Do with Those Green Pipes in my Yard? .	11
Leaf Collection Bags Available At Township Building	11
Planning A New Project or Renovation?.....	12
Land Development Update	12
Branchwood and Forrest Meadow Parks.....	13
Events Calendar	14
Grilling Safety	15
What To Do If You Were Scammed	16-17



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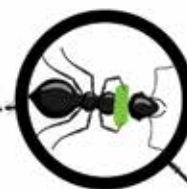
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Jerry Rittenhouse
Tim Meyers

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works
Director

LET'S ALL CONTINUE TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

continued from cover

community so special. We believe in a greater humanity that supersedes politics or any other issue that social media tries to divide us with. In my job, I'm fortunate to witness these kind acts of neighborliness most every day. I think of the residents who drop off holiday cookies to our police department. Or the woman who dropped off sticky buns to the township with her young children....to not only show kindness but teach her children about giving and the need for community. I see our Police Department running Shop with a Cop, and our annual Fall Fest. In Franconia, I see neighbor helping neighbor. And while there will always be issues that divide us, I remain confident that in Franconia, we'll continue to strive to be good neighbors.

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FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP, A TOWNSHIP RICH IN LOCAL FARM PRODUCTS

Many of those reading this article have resided in Franconia Township for many years ... some their entire lives. Others, however, are new to our community and don't realize the wonderful opportunities to purchase fresh produce, meats and other products from local farms and businesses in the area. To that end, here are a few great spots to check out in the township:

- **Chesapeake Valley Farm**, 514 Creamery Road, Telford. A food market known specifically for their hormone-free, premium quality, locally raised beef. www.chesapeakevalleyfarm.com
- **Frankenfield Farm Market**, 98 Allentown Road, corner of Allentown and Nice Roads in the village of Elroy. A family-run vegetable, crop and beef farm offering sweet corn, tomatoes, pumpkins and other vegetables grown at the farm. Open during summer and fall. www.frankenfieldfarmmarket.com
- **Graceful Glen Alpacas**, 798 Hunsicker Road, Telford. Graceful Glen Alpacas offers alpacas for sale as well as alpaca fleece in various colors. Other available products are hats, scarves, gloves, blankets/throws and other finished products. Farm tours are available. www.gracefulglen.com
- **Hillside Farms**, 750 Cowpath Road, Telford. A local buffalo farm store that sells a variety of buffalo food projects. www.hillsidefarms.biz
- **Necessity Farms & Dairy**, 202 Green Hill Road, Telford. This local dairy and beef farm produces raw milk and cheeses as well as farm fresh and cured meats including beef, chicken, lamb, pork and eggs. www.necessityfarms.com
- **Ray's Greenhouse**, 458 Morwood Road, Telford. A family business that offers a wide range of flowers, plants, fresh fruits and vegetables and gardening supplies. 215-723-1476
- **R&J Farm Market**, Store location (open year round): 325 Allentown Road, Souderton; Roadside Wagon (open seasonally): Route 113, Telford near Franconia Mennonite Church. A family run farm market specializing in home grown produce in-season and their own farm raised free range chicken as well as local raised hormone and antibiotic free all natural beef, glass bottled milk, and much more. www.randjfarmmarket.com
- **The Old Dutch Cupboard**, 689 Harleysville Pike, Telford. A family-run business carrying a variety of bulk foods, nuts, and candy along with eggs and milk. www.theolddutchcupboard.com
- **Yoder's Farm Market**, 761A Cowpath Road, Telford. A family business with a roadside stand where you can buy brown eggs from their naturally raised chickens, a wide variety of seasonal produce, honey, stray and much more. Freezer beef orders are also taken. www.yodersfarmmarket.com

This list is not all encompassing but in addition to these, as you drive around the area during the summer months, in particular, you will notice small local produce stands which are a staple in our "home grown produce" community. Please be sure to check them out!



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Mary Donna Cruz, MD; Rose Tierney, RN; Mary Fulton; Kimberly Wilson, DO

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

The 6th Annual Franconia Township Fall Fest kicked off on October 5 and 6, 2024 in Franconia Community Park. Another incredibly successful family-friendly event was enjoyed by thousands of people from the Indian Valley and beyond! This community festival is spearheaded by the Franconia Police Department's Benevolent Association in conjunction with the Township Administration and Public Works, and the tireless efforts of the Fall Fest Committee Members. The Souderton Area High School Interact Club also provides student volunteers who help make the event run smoothly. Numerous food trucks, live entertainment, a petting zoo, first responder demonstrations, pumpkin patch & painting, a hay maze, tractor rides, a Jeep Show, and nearly one hundred vendors came together to provide a classic Fall Festival experience. As always, Saturday's events were capped off by the best fireworks display anywhere!



Plans are already underway to make the 2025 Franconia Township Fall Fest even better than the first six. We are always looking for groups and individuals who would like to join our team through numerous event day volunteer opportunities.



Drive-in Movies in The Park is fast becoming a community favorite and staple of fall in Franconia. On the evenings of October 11 & 12 two classic Halloween-themed movies per night were shown in Franconia Community Park. Another fund raiser to support the Police Association's Shop with a Cop, movie nights are a fun, family event which brings back the feeling of old drive-in theaters. Concessions were provided by JAARS Helicopter and pizza pre-orders from Souderton Pizza & Pasta were delivered right to the park.





Spring 2025

franc talk

Breakfast with Santa was held on December 7, 2024, at the Franconia Elementary School, where just over six hundred people enjoyed a great breakfast. The Franconia Township Police Benevolent Association hosted and staffed the event, which is open to the public. Approximately \$3,500 was raised to support our Shop with a Cop Event. Most of our officers along with many of their family members, and seventeen volunteers from the Souderton Area High School Interact Club did all the cooking, serving, and cleaning up. Generous sponsors include the Souderton Area School District, Haines & Kibblehouse, and Alderfer's Eggs, who donated all of the eggs!



Law Enforcement Food Drive (December 11th) - Approximately 800 pounds of food was donated to the Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton as a result of the **29th Annual Lt. Patty Simmons Law Enforcement Food Drive**. Det. Kranich, Ofc. Boyle and Ofc. Geist were in attendance for the parade and also provided the muscle for the food delivery in Norristown and Souderton. Our Administrative Assistant Susan McKnight worked tirelessly over the previous two months to help organize and publicize our efforts. Police departments from across Montgomery County along with several fire departments and numerous private organizations came together to unload the donations by hand. In addition to the Keystone Opportunity Center, donations filled the coffers of the Salvation Army, Patrician Society, Daily Bread Food Pantry, Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard, Operation 143, Catholic School Services, Manna on Main Street, and several others. The Franconia Township Police Department is proud to be part of this incredibly important community service project.

continued on page 8

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FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT *continued*

Shop with a Cop is a program in which local police assist families in need by escorting them on a shopping spree, funded by donations raised by the police department. The Franconia Township Police Benevolent Association leads the way for one of the Indian Valley's most successful programs of the year. On Saturday December 21st, Franconia officers and their families were joined by officers from Souderton, Telford, Lower Salford, Souderton School Police, and Hatfield Police Departments who all spent the morning helping grateful families find necessities and gifts to make the holidays joyful. Participating families are selected by Souderton Area School District Counselors at the elementary schools. Thanks to the police association's fund-raising efforts, twenty-two families were able to shop without worry. Incredibly generous financial and personal support was received again this year from Souderton-Telford Rotary, Souderton Area High School Interact Club, JBS Staff, FIFS Staff, Harleysville Walmart, Burn Boot Camp - Harleysville, Orthodontic Specialists Indian Valley, and R & J Farm Market along with many other supporters. Thanks to this outpouring of generosity, each family was allotted a significant amount of shopping money, in addition to a \$400 Landis Supermarket gift card. The shopping event concluded with a pizza party, hosted by Souderton Pizza & Pasta. The families also received wrapped gifts from the Souderton-Telford Rotary Club and were provided with a full Christmas dinner to take home compliments of JBS.



Franconia Township Police Supporting Autism

Our Police Department is selling Autism Awareness Patches for \$10 each. The proceeds will benefit the SASD Autism Program.

For information, contact the Police Department at 215-723-6778.



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INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Residents are reminded of their responsibility to notify the Pennsylvania One Call System prior to any type of excavation work around your home. No matter how big or small, shallow or deep, Pennsylvania state law requires that you call 8-1-1 at least three (3) working days prior to any digging taking place. The call is FREE to any homeowner doing any type of digging themselves on their property. The call center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round. When you call, give a brief description of working locations, what type of equipment will be used, and how long it will take. You will then be given a serial number for your reference. Keep that number until the job is completed.



**Know what's below.
811 before you dig.**

It is helpful for all facility owners to have the proposed dig area marked in white. When notified, each utility company will mark lines if they have a conflict nearby. Once the utility is marked, you are responsible to use caution in the area that is marked when digging. One thing to keep in mind is that just because the line is marked, doesn't mean it's directly below that. By law, there is an 18" tolerance zone to each side of the mark.

For more information, visit www.pa1call.org.

2025 TOWNSHIP ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following is a list of scheduled road projects for the upcoming season:

- Oil and Chip – Moyer, Green Hill, Hollow, Long Mill, Heath and a section of Hunsicker Roads
- Double Oil and Chip/Fog – Branch Mill Road and Indianfield Lane
- Ultra-thin Bonded Wearing Course – Sections of Godshall Road, South of 113 to and into the intersection of Broad Street
- Paving of Franconia Community Park parking lot off Allentown Road
- Road improvements and Paving of Leslie Lane



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WHAT DO I DO WITH THOSE GREEN PIPES IN MY YARD?

When public sewer is installed by your plumber, a number of green (or other color) pipes may be left sticking up in your yard. Those pipes are important for the proper operation and maintenance of your sewer lateral. Depending on the type of public sewer you have, these access pipes could be vent pipes, clean-outs, or shut-offs (used to assist in unplugging sewer lines).

Your sewer lateral installer will often leave a length or lengths of pipe sticking well out of the ground to ensure that settling of the trench and/or sewer lateral does not cause these access pipes to get buried. However, after the excavation has settled sufficiently, the excess pipe can be removed. These pipes can usually be cut down to around 4" or 6" above the ground. You are welcome to have them higher than that, but it's not required.

The important items to remember regarding these sewer lateral access pipes are:

- All sewer lateral access pipes must stick out of the ground sufficiently so that water will not be able to flow into the pipe; if the access pipe is installed in a low area that could flood, the pipe must be left at a higher level.
- All pipes must be capped to keep out debris and water; in the case of a vent pipe, it should have a breathable cover or "mushroom" type cap.
- The access pipes should be visible so that they are not accidentally driven over or run into when cutting grass. Running into or driving over access pipes can break pipe connections allowing water, dirt or tree roots to compromise the sealed nature of the lateral causing future expensive repairs.
- The exposed portion of the access pipe can be painted or incorporated into landscape designs. Other than vent pipes which should have unobstructed access to the air, these access pipes can be used to support small landscape features or even be disguised with an upside down flower pot (or similar) provided that they can be easily accessed if the need arises.
- If an access pipe is damaged, it should be repaired quickly to avoid future problems.

LEAF COLLECTION BAGS AVAILABLE AT TOWNSHIP BUILDING

Private municipal waste haulers operating within the township are required to offer a curbside leaf collection to residents. As required by Ordinance #359, private municipal waste collectors must conduct the pickup of leaf waste in accordance with the regulations of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).

Free biodegradable leaf bags are available for Franconia Township residents at the Administration Building located at 671 Allentown Road from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Each resident is allowed a maximum of 50 leaf bags (10 per visit) per calendar year. Residents are responsible for contacting their trash hauler for their schedule for pickup of these bags.



TO THE BUSINESSES

This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

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PLANNING A NEW PROJECT OR RENOVATION?

Spring and Summer are the busiest times of the year for our township permit department. Please allow a minimum of two to three weeks for the processing of residential applications prior to purchasing any materials or starting any work. Dedicated township staff are happy to assist with the permit process and answer any questions. Building permit applications are available online and at the Township Administration Building.

Common Projects That Require A Permit:

- Swimming Pools (in-ground and above-ground)
- Sheds
- Fences
- Patios, Decks, and Gazebos
- Hot Tubs
- Remodeling (kitchens, bathrooms, finished basements)
- Solar Panels
- Generators
- Electric and Plumbing Work
- Heating and Air Conditioning
- Demolition



Franconia Township *does not* require a permit for playground equipment, paver patios or the replacement of roof shingles or siding if there are no structural changes taking place. Additionally, Franconia *does not* require a use and occupancy permit for residential resale.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Approved or Under Construction

- Belton Manor Estates – 8 Single Family Homes, Godshall Road
- Allebach Tract – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road
- Reserve at Franconia, Pulte Homes – 42 Single Family Homes & 42 Townhouses, Beck Road and Cowpath Road
- Souderton Mennonite Homes – Land Development, W. Reliance and Colonial Avenue
- 205 Schoolhouse Road – New Warehouse Building
- 640 Lower Road – New Warehouse Building
- 315 E Township Line Road – Building Expansion to an Existing Business
- Marcho Family LP – New Freezer and Storage Building 519 Allentown Road
- Godshall's Quality Meats- New Treatment Building
- SASD – Athletic Fields and the High School
- SASD – West Broad Street Elementary School Expansion
- Hagey Road – Landis Land Development

Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- 24 Allentown Road – New Warehouse Building
- Cross Point Baptist – Building Expansion
- Peter Becker – Apartment Building



BRANCHWOOD AND FORREST MEADOW PARKS

Until recently with the installation and remodel of the new pickleball, tennis and basketball courts (first come, first served) at Branchwood Park, that park was seemingly a hidden gem in Franconia Township along with Forrest Meadow Park, taking a back seat to the popular Franconia Community Park. However, both Branchwood and Forrest Meadow Parks are lovely parks within the township well worth looking into for your outdoor fun and activities.

Branchwood Park off Camp Road is situated in a beautiful setting along the East Branch of Perkiomen Creek. In addition to the courts listed above, Branchwood offers two covered pavilions, picnic tables and benches along the creek, a playground, 1 softball field (to rent) and an 8-hole disc golf course (first come, first served).

For those unfamiliar with disc golf, players use discs similar to a frisbee and aim for a disc pole hole which looks like a metal basket. A pole extends up from the ground with chains and a basket to catch the disc. The object of the game is to complete each hole in the fewest number of throws from the tee. Disc golf scorecards are located at the course, and it's a fun way to spend time with friends or family ... and there's no green's fee!

Forrest Meadow Park is a park also worth checking out in the township. Located on Forrest Road, the park has a covered pavilion, ½ mile walking trail, a gaga pit and a playground with a tot-lot geared to children ages 2-5 and a play set geared to children ages 5-12. The gaga pit is a great source of entertainment and play for upper elementary through middle school ages. The game is a fast paced, high-energy sport dubbed a "kinder gentler" version of dodge ball. The more players, the better!

Please note: The pavilions at these parks can be rented for family events or parties. By calling the township office at 215-723-1137, you can obtain information regarding availability and rental fees for the pavilions.

We hope you might take some time to visit these parks when looking for some outdoor enjoyment!



Branchwood Park Disc Golf Basket, Playground and Picturesque Setting



Forrest Meadow Park Gaga Pit and Playgrounds





EVENTS CALENDAR

YOUTH TENNIS CAMPS
(TWO CAMP OPTIONS)

WHEN: June 16-19, 2025 (Rain date: 6/20)
Ages 6-9

July 14-17, 2025 (Rain date: 7/18)
Ages 10-13

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park Tennis Courts

The Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board will be sponsoring two opportunities to attend a youth tennis camp this summer. Skilled instruction will be provided by Cody Powis for each age group listed above. The cost of the clinic is \$140/person (a \$20 discount will be offered for a 2nd sibling registered). Participants need to bring a tennis racket, water and wear tennis shoes. Please check with the Township Office or www.franconiatownship.org for details.



CONCERT IN THE PARK

Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board is pleased to announce their summer concert for 2025. AM Radio Tribute Band will be joining us to perform songs from the 60s and 70s that many of us grew up listening to or that the younger generation enjoys as well! Please come out to enjoy this great performance at Franconia Community Park!



WHEN: Sunday, August 10, 2025

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

FALL FESTIVAL 2025

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR FALL FEST 2025 – WATCH FOR UPCOMING DETAILS ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE.

WHEN: Saturday, October 4 – 11AM to 7PM

FIREWORKS @ 7:30 PM

Sunday, October 5 – 11AM to 4PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park





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Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

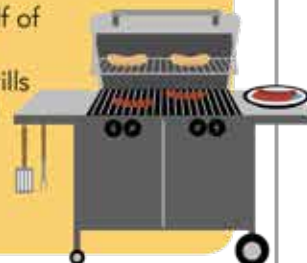
PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ❗ July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ❗ Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU WERE SCAMMED



Scammers can be very convincing. They call, email, and send us text messages trying to get our money or sensitive personal information — like our Social Security or account numbers. And they're good at what they do. Here's what to do if you paid someone you think is a scammer or gave them your personal information or access to your computer or phone. If you paid a scammer, your money might be gone already. No matter how you paid, it's always worth asking the company you used to send the money if there's a way to get it back.

IF YOU PAID A SCAMMER

<i>Did you pay with a credit card or debit card?</i>	Contact the company or bank that issued the credit card or debit card. Tell them it was a fraudulent charge. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.
<i>Did a scammer make an unauthorized transfer from your bank account?</i>	Contact your bank and tell them it was an unauthorized debit or withdrawal. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back.
<i>Did you pay with a gift card?</i>	Contact the company that issued the gift card. Tell them it was used in a scam and ask them to refund your money. Keep the gift card itself, and the gift card receipt.
<i>Did you send a wire transfer through a company like Western Union or MoneyGram?</i>	Contact the wire transfer company. Tell them it was a fraudulent transfer. Ask them to reverse the wire transfer and give you your money back. MoneyGram at 1-800-926-9400 Western Union at 1-800-448-1492 Ria (non-Walmart transfers) at 1-877-443-1399 Ria (Walmart2Walmart & Walmart2World transfers) at 1-855-355-2144
<i>Did you send a wire transfer through your bank?</i>	Contact your bank and report the fraudulent transfer. Ask them to reverse the wire transfer and give you your money back.
<i>Did you send money through a money transfer app?</i>	Report the fraudulent transaction to the company behind the money transfer app and ask them to reverse the payment. If you linked the app to a credit card or debit card, report the fraud to your credit card company or bank. Ask them to reverse the charge.
<i>Did you pay with cryptocurrency?</i>	Cryptocurrency payments typically are not reversible. Once you pay with cryptocurrency, you can only get your money back if the person you paid sends it back. But contact the company you used to send the money and tell them it was a fraudulent transaction. Ask them to reverse the transaction, if possible.
<i>Did you send cash?</i>	If you sent cash by U.S. mail, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 and ask them to intercept the package. To learn more about this process, visit USPS Package Intercept: The Basics at faq.usps.com/s/article/USPS-Package-Intercept-The-Basics . If you used another delivery service, contact them as soon as possible.

**IF YOU GAVE A SCAMMER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION****Did you give a scammer your Social Security number?**Go to **IdentityTheft.gov** to see what steps to take, including how to monitor your credit.**Did you give a scammer your username and password?**

Create a new, strong password. If you use the same password anywhere else, change it there, too.

IF A SCAMMER HAS ACCESS TO YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE**Does a scammer have remote access to your computer?**

Update your computer's security software, run a scan, and delete anything it identifies as a problem. Then take other steps to protect your personal information.

Did a scammer take control of your cell phone number and account?Contact your service provider to take back control of your phone number. Once you do, change your account password. Also check your credit card, bank, and other financial accounts for unauthorized charges or changes. If you see any, report them to the company or institution. Then go to **IdentityTheft.gov** to see what steps you should take.**Report a Scam to the FTC**

When you report a scam, the FTC can use the information to build cases against scammers, spot trends, educate the public, and share data about what is happening in your community. If you experienced a scam — or even spotted one, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov).

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
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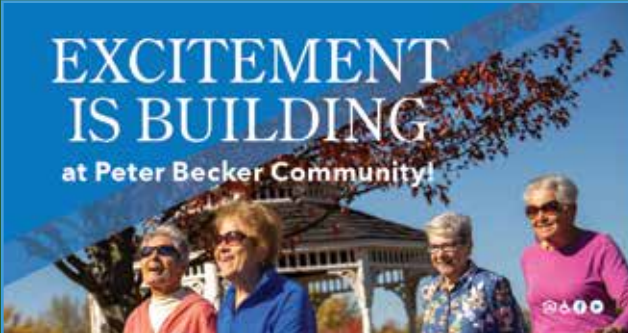
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