

franc talk



Summer 2024

PAINT A PLOW PROGRAM STARTS

Franconia Township has teamed up with the Souderton Area High School's Art Department for the first time to create the Paint a Plow Program. Sean Redmond from the Art Department was a huge help getting this program started.

We would like to extend a big congratulations to all of the students that helped design and draw their artwork on paper before transferring the art design to the township's snow plows.

Those who participated were Izzy McDonough (Concept Artist), Liam Kostick, Kylie O'Keefe, Mike Engle, Vienna Fulginiti, Shannon Stover, C. Wilson, Emma Panzeter, Jenna Bertzos, Cassidy Gulley, Marie Alleman, Gianna Fuentes, Lilly Garofano, Abigail McDonald, Jadon Bateman, Maddy Coombs and Norah Bishop.

The plows were designed by the instruction of Franconia Township, and the theme this year was a fall theme.

Look for them to be displayed at this year's Fall Fest at Franconia Park on October 5 and October 6 this year and when the snow is on the ground.



FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jon A. Hammer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration 215-723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1
Michael L. Martin, Chief
Steven Cronin, Administrative Sergeant

BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

215-723-1137
Jerry Rittenhouse, Building
Inspector/Code Enforcement Director
Tim Meyers, Inspector

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

215-723-1153
Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works Director



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A MESSAGE FROM TOWNSHIP MANAGER JON HAMMER

It seems like every time an article is written for Franc Talk, we highlight Franconia's low tax rate, low crime rate, expansive amounts of preserved open space and beautiful parks. Those are the issues most important to our residents, and those are the issues we continue to work on. We like to challenge people to find a like-sized municipality anywhere in Pennsylvania that has a lower tax rate, a lower crime rate, and has preserved more open space than Franconia Township. We have yet to find one.

But for this article, let's focus a little more on the businesses and residents of our community. Let's be honest, the reason we have such a wonderful community is you. Collectively, our residents and businesses care about keeping Franconia Township an outstanding community. Both entities care about each other. There is a direct correlation between how our residents look out for one another and our low crime rate. There is also an interdependent relationship with our residents, business community, low tax rate, and open space preservation efforts. People are hard-pressed to find litter in any of our parks – I bet they won't – because of our residents, who are forever conscientious about keeping things clean.

This year, Bergey's is celebrating their 100th anniversary, and they are planning several different activities to recognize this milestone, including a grand community event in the fall. In many ways, Franconia Township and Bergey's grew-up together at the corner of Allentown Road and Route 113. Many locals still tell stories of how the stop light installation at this intersection signaled Franconia's coming of age. Franconia and its residents are often the recipient of Bergey's remarkable charitable history. We are grateful to Mark Bergey, and the entire Bergey family for their many contributions to Franconia Township. We look forward to their next 100 years!

We also recognize that there are many, many other businesses that help complete the fabric of our community. Businesses, large and small, which have been family owned for generations.

As Township Manager, I've had the privilege of meeting with these family-owned businesses who still operate with a handshake and a smile. It's unique in these modern times, and something I hope our community never loses to the large faceless corporations engulfing townships everywhere.

Before I finish, I just want to recognize and thank our farming community; small businesses who truly care about preserving open space for future generations. Many of our local farmers took steps to preserve their farms so our grandchildren and beyond can enjoy open space, less traffic, and clean air. In many ways, our local farmers are the true heroes in the Franconia story. Without these preservation efforts, Franconia could have become like any other sprawled suburban community. So, I encourage you to patronize the local farm stands this year, shake their hand, and do business with a smile. It's the Franconia way.



SUPERVISOR DAVE FAZIO RECOGNIZED IN HARRISBURG

Our own Township Supervisor Dave Fazio was recognized on the floor of the state Capitol building in Harrisburg for his distinguished military service and his commitment to local government.

Welcoming Dave was State Representative Donna Scheuren, who was joined by State Representative Steve Malagari and the Speaker of The House Joanna McClinton.

While on the floor of the House, Speaker McClinton spoke of Dave's military service in the Navy during the Vietnam era from 1966-69. Dave worked on anti-submarine electronic equipment and was an aircrew member. Dave went on to have a very successful business career.

Dave currently serves as the 1st Vice Chairman on the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors and has been instrumental in the township's success. His outstanding relationships with our friends in Harrisburg have proven very helpful in getting things done for Franconia.



(left to right) Representative Steve Malagari, House Speaker Joanna McClinton, Dave Fazio, Lynne Fazio and Representative Donna Scheuren

PLEASE DON'T BLOW GRASS INTO THE STREET

When mowing your lawn, please refrain from blowing grass into the street. Please blow it back into your yard.

If blown into the street, grass clippings will find their way into storm drains and may clog them during heavy rain events that would contribute to localized flooding. The grass clippings in the street are also a hazard to motorcycles and bicycle riders.



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PUBLIC WORKS FOCUSES ON PAVEMENT PRESERVATION

One of the main goals of the Franconia Township's Public Works Department is pavement preservation.

Most of us keep our vehicles serviced routinely and our health in order with doctor and dentist visits. Likewise, having a plan for pavement preservation can extend the life of the roads within the township and plan for future needs.

There are very few people that like to drive down a road filled with holes that have been filled in multiple times or road shoulders that are decaying and very uneven. That's where our job comes into play.

Before we decide which pavement application is necessary, there are a few things to consider.

- How is the sub-base of the road?
- Are there any storm pipes that are failing and need replacing?
- Can the water get off the road and into a ditch or into an inlet?
- Are there cracks in the surface and what kinds of cracks are happening?
- Has the road lost its profile?

The one goal for preserving a road's surface is to extend the lifespan of what you see. That's why there are different applications for every road out there.

Some of those applications are chip sealing, slurry seal, crack sealing, ultra-thin bonded wearing course, and mill and overlay.

Let's face it, money is always something that we all think about. So going into a new year, we are always budgeting for projects ahead of time.

Some major projects for 2024 are:

- Storm water pipe and inlets along Reliance Road that crosses Cowpath Road.
- Cape Seal on Cowpath Road from Route 113 to just before the intersection of Broad Street and Green Street.
- Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course on 4th Street from Forrest Road to Church Road.
- Double oil and Chip with a Fog Seal on South Hunsberger Lane, Yale Court, Harvard Court, Jonathan Drive and Goldenrod Drive
- Single Oil and Chip on Keller Creamery Road from Morwood Road to Hunsicker Road
- Mill and Overlay on 4th Street from Church Road to the Telford Borough line. Indian Creek Road from Bergey Road to the bridge and then the building contractor will be paving from the bridge to Cowpath Road.

If you are out and about and you see something that needs some attention, don't hesitate to contact Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works Director, either by phone at 215-723-1137 or email at admin@franconia-township.org.

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY IS A SUCCESS



Drug Take Back Day and the Franconia Township Police Department's drug drop box continue to be an extraordinarily successful means for collecting unwanted medications. We are extremely pleased that so many residents frequently utilize our drop box on a regular basis to clear their homes of unwanted medications.

At this year's National Drug Take Back Event, our Police Department accepted 374 pounds of medications during the four-hour collection period. That, coupled with 212 pounds of medications collected in the drop box, yielded our highest total of unwanted medications since we began participating in 2017.

The scourge of substance abuse and addiction takes a toll on millions of individuals and families every day. It is a well-documented fact that many of those affected began with the legitimate use of prescription medications and/or the misuse of someone else's medicine readily available in the home. Unneeded, expired, or obsolete medications should be discarded in proper collection boxes to prevent misuse and environmental hazards.

Our secure collection box is located in the lobby of the Franconia Township Police Department and is accessible year-round, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. National Drug Take Back Days are typically conducted

in April and are heavily advertised. We proudly partner with Franconia Elementary School and the Indian Valley Character Counts Coalition to conduct the take back events.

We urge all of our residents to monitor their medication supplies and regularly dispose of those which are no longer needed. Below is a quick reference for surrendering medications.

- Controlled and non-controlled medications along with over-the-counter medications will be accepted.
- Liquids and creams in their packaging will be accepted.
- Vape pens and other e-cigarette devices can be accepted only after the individual consumer has removed the batteries.
- Illegal substances will not be accepted.
- Sharps and Syringes will not be accepted.

Together we can all make a positive difference in keeping our friends and loved ones healthier.

BEGINNER CLINICS AT BRANCHWOOD PARK'S NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS



April 24 Pickleball clinic attendees

Franconia Township offered two opportunities to attend an intro and demonstration of pickleball clinic at the new pickleball courts completed at Branchwood Park last fall. The clinics were conducted by Barb Matase, USA Pickleball Ambassador for Souderton-Quakertown. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the instruction and left ready to be our newest players in the world of pickleball!



You can fill your water bottle and give Dexter a drink at the new water fountain at Franconia Community Park.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Approved or Under Construction

- **Peter Becker Community** – 30 Cottages at Pondview
- **Bayard Estates** – WB Homes, Indian Creek Road, 22 Single Family Homes and 23.6 acres designated for Open Space
- **Belton Manor Estates** – 8 Single Family Homes, Godshall Road
- **Allebach Tract** – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road
- **Reserves 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
- **Penshyre Place** – 5 Single Family Homes along Cherry Lane
- **West Broad Street Elementary School** - addition

Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- **205 Schoolhouse Road** – New Warehouse Building
- **315 E Township Line Road** – Building Expansion to an Existing Business
- **Godshall's Quality Meats** – New Treatment Building
- **Marcho Family LP** – New Freezer and Storage Building 519 Allentown Road
- **640 Lower Road** – New Warehouse Building
- **SASD High School** – Athletic Fields

Rezoning Projects

- Rezone of portions of various parcels along Allentown Road and Godshall Road from R-130 to Commercial for Marcho Family L.P.
- Rezone of one section of the LI- Limited Industrial District to newly created I- Industrial District



PET WASTE - You're the solution to storm drain pollution

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION

When rain flows over streets and other surfaces, it picks up pollutants and carries them into the stormwater conveyance



("storm drain") system. This system is designed to prevent flooding by transporting water away from developed areas.

However, this water is not filtered or treated, and all the contaminants it contains eventually flow to our streams, lakes and ocean where we swim and fish.



Once there, polluted runoff can harm wildlife and habitats.

In some cases, it can even cause beach closures or make our fish and shellfish unsafe to eat.

Pet wastes are among the many common stormwater pollutants that can degrade water quality. Other examples include paint, oil, automotive fluids, construction debris, yard waste, pesticides, litter, pool chemicals and dirty wash water.



WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET?



During rainfall, pet waste left on lawns, trails and sidewalks washes into storm drains. These wastes and the pathogens they contain (bacteria, parasites and viruses) end up flowing directly into streams, lakes and the ocean where they can harm health and the environment.



As the pet wastes decompose, they demand a high level of oxygen from water.

This demand can kill fish and plant life by reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available to them.

Recent studies have shown dogs and cats to be major sources of fecal contamination at local beaches.

In addition to causing beach closures, this contamination can make people sick with sore throats, intestinal problems, rashes, nausea, and eye and ear infections.





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Concert in the Park



The Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board is pleased to announce their summer concert this year. The Alex Buono Band will be performing your favorite hit songs from all genres of music from the 50s to the present. Please come out to enjoy this great performance at Franconia Community Park!

WHEN: Sunday, August 11, 2024
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM



Mark your calendars now for Fall Fest 2024 - Check Township Website for Details.

WHEN: Saturday, October 5
11AM to 7PM
FIREWORKS @ 7:30 PM

Sunday, October 6
11AM to 6PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park



If you're dying to have fun, stay tuned for more details for Franconia Township Police Benevolent Association's annual Halloween drive-in movie nights to be held this October. It's going to be something fang-tastic to add to your Halloween season!