

# franc talk



## FALL FEST 2025: A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER



This year's Franconia Township and Police Benevolent Association Fall Fest, held on October 4th and 5th, was a tremendous success. With perfect weather and a record-breaking turnout, thousands of guests enjoyed a wide range of family-friendly attractions and entertainment throughout the weekend.

Highlights included the ever-popular hay maze, wagon rides, pumpkin painting, and an impressive tractor show hosted by the Bucks-Mont 2-Cylinder Club. Guests also explored offerings from 86 vendors and indulged in delicious fare from 16 food trucks. Music and entertainment were seamlessly provided by Entertainment Engineering Plus, with full sound, lighting, and live performance support all weekend long.

Saturday featured thrilling demonstrations from the Telford and Perseverance Fire Companies, alongside police equipment displays and safety information shared by several departments: Souderton, Hatfield, Lower Merion, Telford, Souderton School Police, Lower Salford, and Montgomery County SWAT (Central Region), as well as the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department.

A major attraction was the return of JAARS (Jungle Aviation and Relay Service), offering scenic helicopter rides to more than 460 passengers. New this year was an unforgettable candy drop on Sunday afternoon, where 250 pounds of candy rained down from a helicopter — delighting hundreds of eager children in a moment that truly captured the spirit of Fall Fest.



*continued on page 3*

## Winter 2025/2026 IN THIS ISSUE

Township Information.....	3
Fall Fest 2025 .....	3
PA Route 309 Connector Road Now Open.....	4
Warrior Walk From New York to Georgia .....	4
Meadow McNamara Honored.....	6
Citizens Police Academy ..	6
Welcome Police Officers ..	7
Franconia Township History .....	8
What to Do If Your Drains Are Running Slow?.....	10
Land Development Update .....	11
Public Works .....	11
Eagle Scouts .....	12
Reconnect With Nature...	13
Pickleball Clinics at Branchwood Park.....	14
Fall Festival 2025 .....	14
AM Radio Tribute Band Performs at Concert .....	15
Put a Freeze on Winter Fires .....	16

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## FALL FEST 2025:

### A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

*continued from cover*



Saturday night dazzled with one of the region's most anticipated traditions: a spectacular pirate-themed fireworks display. Celebration Fireworks once again delivered an awe-inspiring show, complete with drones, music, and choreographed effects, making it clear why visitors travel from near and far to witness this event.

On Sunday, the fun continued with our Third Annual Jeep-O-Ween Jeep Show & Competition. This year's show featured 40 uniquely decorated or eye-catching Jeeps, drawing admiration from attendees and judges alike. Trophies were awarded to the top three "Coolest Jeeps," selected by the Show Committee, Police Association, and the Police Chief. The growing popularity of the event hints at an even bigger turnout in 2026.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of the Fall Fest Committee, the Franconia Police Benevolent Association, Franconia Township Public Works, and the many student volunteers from the Souderton Area High School Interact Club and the Montgomery County Police Academy.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated, attended, or contributed — especially our generous sponsors:

Bergey's Auto Group, JBS, Franconia Financial and Insurance, Souderton-Telford Rotary, Orthodontic Specialists Indian Valley, and Univest Bank.

We can't wait to see you again next year!





## PA ROUTE 309 CONNECTOR ROAD NOW OPEN



On August 14, the long-anticipated PA Route 309 Connector Road officially opened to traffic between Allentown Road and Cowpath Road. This newly completed section of the multi-year infrastructure project runs along the border of Franconia and Hatfield Townships.

Since its opening, the new roadway has already led to a noticeable reduction in vehicle and heavy truck traffic on local roads in the southern part of Franconia Township, improving safety and easing congestion in residential areas.

The posted speed limit on the Connector Road is 40 MPH. Regular traffic enforcement is being conducted by both the Franconia and Hatfield Township Police Departments to ensure compliance and maintain safety.

Once the entire project is complete, the Connector Road will serve as a direct link between Sumneytown Pike, the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Kulpsville and Route 309 in Hatfield—greatly enhancing regional traffic flow and accessibility.

## A WARRIOR WALK FROM NEW YORK TO GEORGIA CROSSES THROUGH FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

You truly never know what a day will bring! In April, Detectives Kranich and Frary were assisting patrol officers with a traffic crash on Allentown Road near the Rising Sun Inn. As they worked to keep traffic moving, they encountered a man carrying a very large backpack walking along the road. They greeted the man, learned that his name is Art Lashomb, and engaged him in friendly conversation.

Art is a United States Army veteran whose local VFW Post in New York needs major repairs to continue operating. Art decided to go on a Warrior Walk to raise money for this cause which is near to his heart. His Warrior Walk began in Syracuse, NY and will take him all the way to Brunswick, GA; a journey that is over 1,000 miles! Art was kind enough to come by our station to enjoy a few bites to eat, share some stories from his journey, and brighten up our day. We were happy to help him get off his feet, even if it was just a few minutes. We sent Art on his way with some Franconia Police Department mementos, new friendships and some fresh-baked treats, compliments of a local resident.

We sincerely thank Art for taking the time out of his journey to stop and talk with us! His determination is truly inspiring! We wish him the best of luck on the rest of his journey!

If you would like to follow Art on his journey, please see his Warrior Walk Facebook page at the link below. He is sharing updates as he moves along!

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## MEADOW MCNAMARA HONORED



Pictured L to R: Corporal Edward Hall, Navy Cooper (Meadow & Summer's Cousin), Meadow McNamara, Summer McNamara, and Chief Michael Martin

recognized. Chief Michael Martin reviewed the case and completely agreed with Cpl. Hall. The Chief said, "Many nine-year-olds would have just rolled over and tried to go back to sleep, but Meadow knew something was different and took potentially life-saving action. Because of her quick-thinking and genuine concern for the well-being of her little sister, critical time was not lost, which is truly admirable. Our entire police department is very proud to recognize Meadow."

A Chief's Letter of Commendation was awarded to Meadow McNamara for her "quick and unselfish action, which displayed maturity beyond her years." Meadow was also presented with a gift card to Downtown Scoop Ice Cream Shop from the officers and staff of the Franconia Township Police Department.

## FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Franconia Township Police Department will be conducting a 10-week Citizens Police Academy for Township residents and those who work in the Indian Valley beginning Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Franconia Township Municipal building located at 671 Allentown Road, Telford. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Applications can be obtained at the Franconia Township Police Department Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or online at the Franconia Township Police department website. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and be able to pass a criminal background check. Deadline for applying is February 27, 2026.

This free program is designed to educate residents and those working in or around the township about their Police Department. Topics include an overview of the agency, crime scene investigation (hands on processing), use of force, practical traffic stops, practical police scenarios (shoot don't shoot), K-9 demonstrations, and District & County Court proceedings. Participants will also receive First Aid/CPR/AED certification.

The class will graduate in front of the Board of Supervisors at a meeting date to be announced. Class size is limited.

For questions and further information about this program, please contact Sgt. Cronin or Officer Boyle at 215-723-6778 or email: [scronin@franconia-township.org](mailto:scronin@franconia-township.org) or [tboyle@franconia-township.org](mailto:tboyle@franconia-township.org)



## WELCOME TO POLICE OFFICER CHRISTOPHER HOUGH



The Franconia Township Police Department welcomed Officer Christopher Hough on June 2, 2025. A formal swearing-in ceremony was held at the Board of Supervisors' June 16th meeting.

Before coming to Franconia, Officer Hough was employed by the Telford Borough Police Department as a patrol officer in 2022. In his relatively brief time in Telford, Officer Hough served as a Bicycle Patrol Officer and excelled at traffic enforcement. Prior to his law enforcement career, he spent 14 years as a cabinet maker with his father. Officer Hough successfully graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy and has earned several certificates including Traffic Patrol/Drug Interdiction, Crisis Intervention Specialist, and Bicycle Patrol. He grew up in Perkasie, PA and graduated from Pennridge High School and Upper Bucks Technical School.

In the Franconia Township Police Department, we are committed to law enforcement professionalism through integrity, respect, and service. To maintain these high standards, every officer hired here must first go through a stringent testing process. Officer Christopher Hough excelled during this process. We are certain that he will serve our community well.



## FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES OFFICER MARY-JEAN WICHER

The Franconia Township Police Department proudly welcomed Officer Mary-Jean Wicher, who was officially sworn in as the department's 13th officer during the October Public Meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The Honorable District Justice Adam T. Katzman administered the oath of office, as Officer Wicher's mother, Liz, held the Bible and pinned on her badge—making it a moment of both professional and personal significance.

A lifelong resident of Telford Borough and graduate of Souderton Area High School, Officer Wicher has deep roots in the Indian Valley community. She earned her associate degree in Criminal Justice from Montgomery County Community College, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She is also a proud graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy. Prior to joining the department, she served as a manager at the Broad Street Theater in Souderton.

We are honored to officially welcome Officer Mary-Jean Wicher—and her family—into the Franconia Township family.





## FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP HISTORY A TOWNSHIP FOUNDED ON ACCEPTANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY

In the late 1720s, Franconia Township encompassed parts of what are now Souderton and Telford. Together the three municipalities fell under the jurisdiction of Salford Township. In 1731, Franconia split from its neighboring communities to form its own municipality.

Franconia means "land of the Franks." Beginning in the 1600s, a large German population began to grow in Franconia, and descendants of some of the Township's original settlers still live here.

Early Franconia residents found that Indian Creek and its valley had its own population of already established Native Americans, whose artifacts can still be found within the area.

### Religious Tolerance Fuels Growth

Religious freedom attracted the European immigrants who settled here. Franconia's earliest church is believed to be Indianfield (Little Zion) Church, which was built with logs in 1730.



*Little Zion Lutheran Church at Indianfield*

In 1734, only 34 people landholders lived in Franconia, and nearly all were German. The town included:

- 175 residents
- Two gristmills
- One tannery
- 153 horses
- 266 cattle
- One tavern

By 1882, the population exploded with:

- 2,556 residents
- Seven gristmills
- 515 horses
- 1,147 cattle
- Nine taverns

At that time, much of Franconia's population was Mennonite, and they built meeting places and churches for worship throughout the township, including:

- Franconia Mennonite Meeting Meetinghouse on Route 113, established between 1730 and 1750
- Indian Creek Reformed Church (Christ Church) at Cowpath and Church Roads, established in the 1750s
- Leidy's Church on Cherry Lane, established in 1858, following construction of a schoolhouse and cemetery

### Liberty Bell history lies within Franconia

The Rising Sun Inn located on Allentown Road, Telford was formerly known as Gerhart's Tavern. The inn built in 1739 was owned by the Gerhart family for many years and played a role in the Liberty Bell's history during the Revolutionary War.

When the Liberty Bell was transported from Philadelphia to Allentown in 1777, it is believed that Gerhart's Tavern was a location where the bell was housed overnight to keep it safe. This stop was important in order to prevent the British from capturing the bell and melting down the symbol of freedom.

### A Rural Setting with City Access

With the onset of the automobile in the early 1900s, village shops gave way to borough stores which became more accessible with the improvement of roads. As reliance on cars increased, residents used the railroads less. A testament to those changes, Bergey's Automobiles was established in 1924, and continues to succeed today celebrating their 100th Anniversary in 2024!

Suburbanization spread following World War II, along with commercial and industrial growth in Franconia. Early 20th century farmers created agribusinesses, many of which are still successful today, such as JBS (formerly Moyer Packing), Marcho Farms, and Leidy's.

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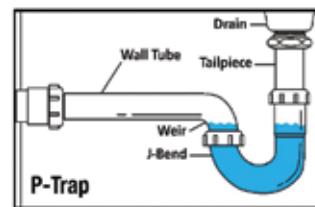
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## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DRAINS ARE RUNNING SLOW OR BACKING UP?

There are a number of reasons why your drains start running slow, or water is backing up in your house. Here are some steps to take to help determine what the cause might be.

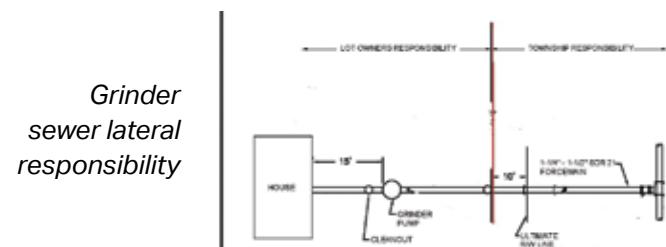
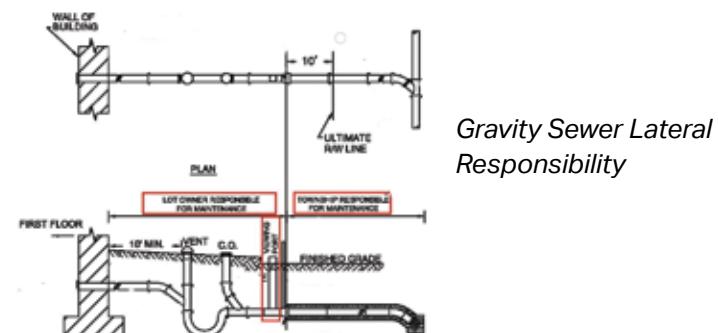
First, are all of the drains running slow or only one or two? If it's only one or two, the problem is most likely from a clogged or clogging trap under your sink or bath fixture. The trap's purpose is to hold a portion of water to create a seal – preventing sewer gases from coming through your plumbing and entering your house. Over time, however, solid particles, hair, and/or grease can accumulate in the trap, blocking the water flow. In this case the debris has to be cleaned out. This can sometimes be done using chemicals or mechanical methods. Once that's done the water can again flow freely. It's also possible that the pipe following the trap can get debris build-up that reduces water flow. Typically, the only way to clear up this situation is by mechanical means (like using an auger).



Picture showing the normal water level in a trap

If all of the drains in your house are running slow, or water backs up from one fixture into another, the problem is most likely outside your house. The pipe that carries wastewater from your house to the public sewer main – the lateral – could be clogged. Much like a clog inside your house, an outside trap could have filled with debris or the lateral itself could have issues like a collapsed pipe, tree roots entering the lateral, or just build-up of debris. It's important for you to understand that the sewer lateral is your responsibility from the house out to the property line – so almost all of the lateral is yours. The sewer authority is responsible for the sewer main (usually in the street) and the "T" that connects your lateral to the main.

If you have an on-lot disposal system (OLDS), all of the above holds true, except there is no connection to public sewer, so all issues with problem drains are on the homeowner. In addition to the above, some OLDS use a dosing pump, which can fail over time and cause a back-up. For all of the issues regarding homeowner responsibilities for clogged drains, it is best to call a plumber who can identify the actual cause of the problem and correct it.



While we're on the topic of sewer drains, here is another tip to remember. Sometimes you might get a sewer smell in your house. If this occurs, run water into each of your sinks and bath fixtures. If the water in the trap evaporates over time, the seal that keeps sewer gases from entering your house goes away. Simply putting about a gallon of water down each drain will restore the seal, and the odor goes away.

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## LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### Approved or Under Construction

- 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 – West Broad Street Elementary School Expansion
- Hagey Road – Landis Land Development
- 24 Allentown Road – New Warehouse Building
- Peter Becker – Apartment Building

### Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- Cross Point Baptist – Building Expansion



## PUBLIC WORKS ... ALWAYS HARD AT WORK

From the constant upkeep of our parks to the yearly pavement preservation projects, our Public Works Department keeps busy on a daily basis. Pavement projects that were completed this year were Single Oil and Chip on Green Hill Road, Sunset Lane, Heath Road, a section of Hunsicker Road, Long Mill Road, and Moyer Road. The roads that received a Double Oil and Chip with a Fog Seal were Branch Mill Road and Indian Field Lane.

The intersection of Godshall Road, Broad Street and Cowpath Road, along with parts of Godshall Road received the Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course. That process was handled by AMS, and the road was then re-painted.

At the same time, a new All-Way Stop was installed at the intersection of Godshall Road and Lower Road.

Leslie Lane received some much needed improvements. The old deteriorated metal storm pipe was removed from under the curb and replaced with new ADS plastic storm pipe. With a joint effort between Franconia Township and Franconia Sewer Authority, Phase 1 of the sanitary sewer project was installed while the road was being worked on. The concrete curb was then installed followed by a base course of blacktop. Phase 2 will be completed next year.



Storm pipe work on Leslie Lane



Completed paving work at Godshall Rd., Broad St. and Cowpath Rd.



Three-way stop at intersection of Lower and Godshall Roads

Lastly, if reporting a road-killed deer, the best solution is to call the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 1-833-742-9453. They are available 24/7 and response time to remove the deer is within 72 hours. If you see that deer is creating a dangerous situation for a traveling motorist, you can report it by calling Franconia Township Public Works Department at 215-723-1153.



## EAGLE SCOUTS

When you think about an Eagle Scout, what comes to mind? Hiking, camping, earning badges, community service?

In the past few years, Eagle Scouts have reached out to Franconia Township for help with one of their final steps on receiving the "Eagle" ranking by doing some type of community service project. In partnership with these scouts, we have added a few unique touches to some of our parks.

It's commendable that we have youth in our community that take the time and effort in brainstorming an idea, then presenting it as to how it might help the area. They also have to purchase materials and perform the work to install a project. Another huge aspect to these projects is the amount of time devoted to them.

To all of the scouts that have ever done projects in completing their "Eagle" rank in Franconia Township and to the parents and leaders of these scouts, I would say Thank You!

I would like to especially thank Stephen Hradnansky for the gaga pit at Forrest Meadow Park, Liam Grant for the kiosk at Enos Godshall Park, and Lillie Wade for the pollination garden at Chestnut Grove Park.

*Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works Director*



Gaga pit – Forrest Meadow Park



Kiosk – Enos Godshall Park



Pollination Garden – Chestnut Grove Park



*On October 15th, Homespun Educational Co-op's SOLD (Serving One Another in Love and Deed) Class assisted the Public Works Department with branch cleanup at Branchwood Park.*



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## RECONNECT WITH NATURE IN THE HEART OF FRANCONIA

Nature abounds in Franconia Township especially during the spring and summer months. You can see the return of many bird species (some of the most beautiful blue birds can be seen while walking at Franconia Park as well as red-tailed hawks, and an eagle's nest on Long Mill Road) and for those who love nature and the great outdoors, you can spot bunnies, squirrels, chipmunks, fox, deer and various other wildlife throughout the township.

- Snapping turtles can also be spotted in the township. Some female turtles will sometimes venture out of Branch Creek by Branchwood Park to lay their eggs and return to the water shortly thereafter. We had a spotting of that very thing this year, and here are some interesting facts you may not have known about snapping turtles:
- Snapping turtles typically lay their eggs in June.
- They scrape dirt and dig a deep hole with their hind feet where they lay their eggs.
- Snapping turtles do not stay with their nest. After laying and burying eggs, the female turtles abandon the nest and return to the water (their natural habitat).
- It takes approximately 80-90 days for the eggs to hatch.
- Once the eggs hatch, the hatchlings instinctively go towards the nearest water source.
- Snapping turtles are typically not dangerous unless they feel threatened. They tend not to be aggressive and do not attack or bite people or pets unless they are provoked; therefore, it is best not to approach them or give them reason to feel endangered.

So if you enjoy nature, grab your sneakers and even your camera and venture out into the township to see what you can find. You might even find some in your back yard!



Red-tailed hawk in tree with blue jay over head



Fawn running through garden area of a property



Blue bird spotted in tree at Franconia Park



Three fox kits playing



Eagle's nest in tree on Long Mill Road



Snapping turtle scrapings and hole where eggs were laid



## PICKLEBALL CLINICS AT BRANCHWOOD PARK

Pickleball continues to be all the craze, and it's rare that Branchwood Park's six pickleball courts that were constructed in 2023 are not in use.

New pickleball players are joining the ranks of this sport regularly, and Franconia Township offered opportunities to attend one of three pickleball clinics this spring. We held two beginner pickleball clinics as well as one intermediate pickleball clinic. The clinics were well attended and instructed by Barb Mataese, USA Pickleball Ambassador. The weather was perfect this year, and the clinics were enjoyed by all!



## FALL FESTIVAL 2025

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who had the opportunity to attend Franconia Township's Fall Fest 2025! The event was a huge success thanks to you, and we couldn't have asked for nicer weather.

Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's event on October 3 and 4, 2026. We hope to see you there!

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Winter 2025/2026

*franc talk*

## AM RADIO TRIBUTE BAND PERFORMS AT CONCERT IN THE PARK

AM Radio Tribute Band brought out one of the largest crowds in years for Franconia Township's Annual Concert in the Park held on Sunday, August 10th. It was the perfect evening for the concert, and those in attendance enjoyed fun performances of songs from the 60s and early 70s while band members were dressed in their fringe, go-go boots and psychedelic clothing worn during that era.



North Penn Goodwill Food Truck and Downtown Scoop joined us providing food, drink and ice cream for purchase. The township would like to thank our sponsors for this event: Richard Kapusta and Company Architects and Planners, I.T. Landes, Judge Electrical, Inc., Bishop's Fencing & Outdoor Products, Williams Bergey Koffel, Leidy's and Hayes Auto Body.



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Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible** from your home.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



**FEMA**



**U.S. Fire Administration**



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).

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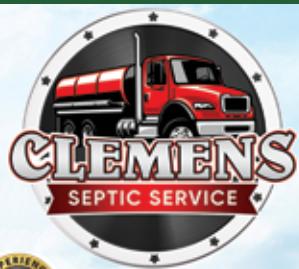
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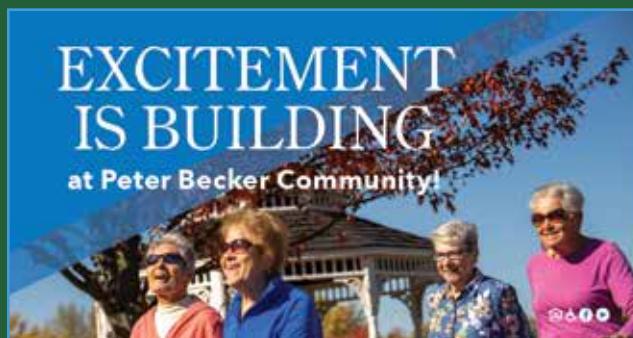


Winter 2025/2026



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