

FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • November 2003

Road Improvements Racing Through

Paul R. Nice, Superintendent of Highways, has been extremely busy this summer preparing and completing road projects. The township expects some projects to last up to two years as land development projects reach completion.

Bergey's. Once the township receives the final permit from PennDot, the realignment of the intersection will improve traffic flow and movements.

The township expects to complete all of these projects sometime during 2004. 🌸

Planned Intersection Improvements

A steering committee has been reviewing design options for W. Broad / Cowpath / Lower roads. The Commonwealth's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) listed this intersection in 2001. This formal planning process uses state and federal funding to make road improvements.

The planning process requires that there be support from several commonwealth agencies and public review of the proposal. The board of supervisors expect to hold a public meeting sometime in 2004 displaying the proposed plan. 🌸



The Highway Department began a two-year project in conjunction with the construction of the Penn View Christian school relocating to Godshall Road. There were significant improvements made between Delp Road and Homestead Avenue, including the cutting of approximately seven feet from the roadway to help improve the sight distance at Delp and Godshall Roads, as well as the installation of a new stormwater collection system.

Another project was the rebuilding of Indian Creek Road (east of Creamery Road), which included stormwater management improvements, as part of a six single-family dwelling land development.

Lastly, the township made improvements at Godshall Road and Route 113 in preparation for the widening of the intersection as part of the land development currently underway by

Township Road Crew prepares intersection for signal relocation.



Rebuilding and widening of Indian Creek Road.



Township Highway Department rebuilds Godshall Road with Pennview Christian School.

Officer David J. Shaner Retires

After 28 years of service to the Franconia community, a Franconia institution recently said farewell to the police career that brought him in touch with so many people. David J. Shaner worked his last day on August 29 after twenty-eight years of dedicated service. He received the traditional escort of fifteen police cars with lights and sirens blaring for his “last ride” down Route 113 on his final day.

Officer Shaner started his police career with stints as a part-time officer in Lansdale and Hatfield Borough. Hired by Franconia Township in 1975 as a part-time police officer, Officer Shaner began his full-time position on January 1, 1976 under Chief Paul Hunsberger.

Officer Shaner’s talents in working with young people were immediately recognized and he became the department’s Juvenile Officer one year later. He flourished in that position by developing great working relationships with the school district and by helping with youth hockey and sports teams. He has been the School Resource Officer for the police department for the last three years, working his entire day in the schools.

Officer Shaner also gave back to his community. He has been a member of the Souderton Community

Ambulance Association since the early 1980’s where he currently serves as the Deputy Chief.

Along the way, he has received numerous awards and recognitions. He was the Montgomery County Juvenile Officer of the Year in 1987 and awarded the Community Service Award by the Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police in 1993. Just recently, the Pennsylvania Juvenile

Officers Associations presented Officer Shaner with their Pennsylvania Juvenile Officer of the Year Award.

Many of Officer Shaner’s friends joined him at a retirement celebration on September 19. His fellow officers and comrades paid tribute to a fine gentleman and tireless worker. Chief of Police Joe Kozeniewski noted that Officer Shaner has been a “treasure to the police and citizens of the Indian Valley. We really didn’t realize what a good thing we had until he was gone.” Officer Shaner has no immediate plans for life “after cop.” He is enjoying each day. 🌹



Officer David Shaner

Flooding Problem with Swales?

Several township residents have experienced poor drainage or excessive flooding problems on their properties. After investigating the problem, the township concluded most of the flooding occurs because of improper maintenance of nearby “swales”.

Swales have a two-fold purpose, to carry away stormwater runoff (especially during heavy rains) and to recharge our underground waterways. As stormwater drains from impervious (water-resistant) driveways and roads, it collects in a swale. A swale acts as a conduit (an open pipe) in between houses and buildings directing stormwater runoff away from the property to a stormwater catch basin and eventually to a nearby stream.

Any change to the swale’s design standard will result in the flooding of properties. Filling the swales with grass clippings, leaves, stone, sticks and other debris, the stormwater overflows the swale and diverts away from its natural course causing poor drainage or flooding. Planting or removing shrubs and trees, or performing any landscaping may look nice, but it may disrupt the natural drainage features of the swale.

To prevent excessive flooding to your property or your neighbor’s, the township asks our residents to leave the swales open and free of any debris. 🌹

Above Ground Swimming Pool Regulations

With a new interest in “blue blow-up” aboveground swimming pools, the township would like to remind residents of our aboveground swimming pool regulations.

- *Swimming pools less than 24” high (including kiddie-pools) do not require a permit. However, owners must empty the swimming pool when not in use, unless it is in a fenced-in area.*
- *All aboveground swimming pools 24” to 52” high require a swimming pool permit, which are available at the township municipal building during regular business hours.*
- *Aboveground swimming pools 48” and higher with rigid sides and rims do not require fencing.*

Therefore, as an additional safety requirement, since “blue blow-up” swimming pools do not have rigid sides and rims, the township requires these and similar swimming pools to be in a fenced-in area.

Please contact the township Code Enforcement Department at 215-723-1137 for additional information regarding swimming pool permits. 🌹



Franconia Sewer Authority

ACT 537 PLAN REVISION

Franconia Township has adopted a revised Act 537 Plan to improve failing on-lot septic systems and extend sewer services to needed areas, where possible. Since the township does not own or operate its own wastewater treatment system, it relies on sewer capacity from Hatfield, Lower Salford, Souderton, and Telford Authorities to treat our wastewater.

The purpose of the revised plan is to provide sewer to needed areas, where possible and restore failing systems. It also includes future public sewer in the Industrial District to attract new businesses to the area. However, due to the contours of the land, with several hills and valleys, it is not possible to service the entire township with public sewer.

Many township residents and businesses utilize on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) that include septic systems and sand mounds, as an alternative for those removed from public sewer systems. However, OLDS are limited to permeable soils that drain well and perk. Since, most of the land within the township consists of rock and clay, not every landowner can utilize OLDS as an alternative to public sewer.

With many of the existing OLDS within the township failing, the revised plan includes a Sewer Management Program to investigate, improve or replace failing systems.

SEWER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Since the township is aware of malfunctioning septic systems, the revised Act 537 Plan includes a Sewer Management Program to conduct a thorough inspection of all on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) within the township.

Septic systems and sand mounds function by allowing solids to settle in the septic tanks and dispose of suspended solids (gray water) to the drainage beds or sand mound. Septic systems and sand mounds fail because of blockage, typically caused by too many solids carrying over with the gray water from the septic tanks to the drainage beds or sand mound.

Cambridge Reserve Receives Award

The Montgomery County Planning Commission honored Cambridge Reserve this past spring, with a Special Recognition Award for its well-designed residential cluster community. The Planning Commission commended the developer's use of Open Space and other design features such as, the trees and landscaping, pedestrian paths, and a neighborhood green complete with a beautiful gazebo. Together these features help make Cambridge Reserve a pleasant living environment and help promote a strong sense of community and neighborhood throughout Franconia Township. Franconia Township congratulates W.B. Homes for their achievement in development design. 🌱



W.B. Homes receives their Special Recognition Award: From Left to Right: Rob Irons, Bohler Engineering; Dulce Flaharty, Montgomery County Planning Commission; Bill Bonenberger, W.B. Homes, David Caracausa, Coldwell Bankers Realty, Roy Hyman, W.B. Homes, and Jamie Brophy, Franconia Township.

This occurs if settleable solids in the septic tanks are not regularly pumped out every four years or sooner, depending on the system and household uses. Over time, settleable solids carried over into the gray water will eventually make the drainage beds or sand mound impervious, thus causing the untreated wastewater to rise to the surface. A breakout of untreated sewage on the surface is a serious health risk.

The program calls for inspection of all septic systems within the township over a five-year period. The Sewage Enforcement

Officer (SEO), who will inspect each system, will determine if the system is functioning properly or is repairable. If the system is not repairable, then the owner may be required to replace the system.

The SEO will require proof from the owner (receipt from an approved pump hauler) that they recently removed and disposed of the solids. Owners without proof or who have not had their system pumped out within the past four years of the inspection will be required to remove and dispose of the solids immediately. 🌱

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



Remember, taking the time to recycle helps to improve the land, air, and water of Franconia Township. To recycle simply place plastics, aluminum, glass, and bimetallic cans in a recycling bin. Please bag newsprint and other paper separately. Make sure to wash out cans and bottles, remove lids and discard in the regular trash. Then place the recyclables out on the curb for your private waste hauler to pickup on trash day.

Residents can drop off additional recyclables at the Public Works Building located at 480 Indian Creek Road. There is one dumpster for glass (clear, brown, and green) and a second dumpster for aluminum cans only. Cardboard may be placed in the third dumpster. Please open and flatten boxes before placing in dumpster. Paper and plastic cannot be recycled at the Public Works Building.

Free recycle bins are available at the Township Office located on Allentown Road. If you are interested in obtaining more information about recycling, please contact your local private hauler. 🌱

Volunteer Applications Available

Residents of Franconia Township that have an interest in serving on a committee or other volunteer commission should submit a Volunteer Application form to the Township Manager. The township retains applications for a two-year period to fill vacancies as they occur. The township relies on volunteer residents to be part of the legislated committees that assist the Board of Supervisors in their decision making process. Support your township by being a volunteer. 🌱

Land Development

The following land developments have received final approval:

- *Indian Valley Greens: 96-unit older adult community – Bergey Road*
- *Harrington Village: 120-unit older adult community – Leidy Road*

The following land developments are currently under review by the Planning Commission:

- *Club View Estates: 22-unit single family dwellings – Godshall Road*
- *Belmont Estates: 49-unit single family dwellings – Bergey Road*
- *Knight's Crest: 10-unit single family dwellings – Mininger Road*
- *Avalon: 62-unit single family dwellings – Halteman Road*

Franconia Township Planning Commission meets every first Monday of the month (except January and September) at 7:00 P.M. at the township meeting room located on Allentown Road. 🌱



Park & Recreation Garden Club

The Park and Recreation Board is seeking “green-thumb” volunteers to enhance our parks with lavish gardens. All avid gardeners (or beginners) please contact Jamie Brophy at 215-723-1137 to sign up. 🌱



Signalized Intersection

The township added another signalized intersection. During the summer, the township installed a traffic signal at Allentown and Morwood Roads to improve traffic movements during the morning and evening peak hours. 🌱

Forest Meadow Park Needs Partners

Franconia Township's Park and Recreation Commission is seeking individuals, organizations, clubs, and businesses to join our team to develop Forest Meadow Park through Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program. The program provides state and federal grant dollars to help fund community recreation projects, like Forest Meadow Park.

The Program offers a 50 percent matching grant for the development of parks including playground areas, picnic areas, ball fields, courts, ice rinks, exercise courses, zoos, environmental centers,

trails, etc. The matching contribution from the township and its partners can include non-cash "in-kind-services" such as volunteer labor (i.e., gardening, landscaping, environmental studies, etc.) or material donations (i.e., flowers, shrubs, trees, benches, birdhouses, pavement, stone, playground equipment, recycling containers, etc.). Contributors can place their name, or the name of a loved one, on a plaque honoring their donation. The Bureau Central Office in Harrisburg rates each application on a point system. The more partners we include in our application the more points we will receive. Interested partners please contact us today at 215-723-1137! 🌸

Snow and Ice Removal

Winter is coming and with winter comes the chore of snow and ice removal! In spite of the many groans that ensue with the mention of the words snow removal, it is a necessary evil. It is the responsibility of all owners, tenants or occupants of occupied or unoccupied properties to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks surrounding the property within 30 hours after the snow or sleet has ceased to fall. Residential property owners are required to clear a pathway in the sidewalk in the event of snow, and cover the sidewalk with cinders, sawdust or similar snow and ice control materials in the event of ice and sleet. The pathway should not be less than 30 inches wide and thoroughly cleared of snow or ice. Property owners can pile the snow and ice on the curbside of the sidewalk, but not in the gutter or cartway. The quick removal of snow from the sidewalks will help eliminate the safety hazards that ice and snow can create. 🌸

New Township Employee

The Township welcomed a new employee in May when Stacey Musick joined the staff as the new Receptionist/Secretary. She brings with her nine plus years of office and administrative experience from the computer software and consulting industry. Stacey's pleasant smile and cordial telephone service in greeting residents makes her an excellent addition to our staff. Her main tasks include assisting people on the phone and at the counter, as well as supporting building permits and code enforcement.

Stacey and her husband, Mark, have been residents of Franconia Township for over six years. In their free time, Stacey and her husband enjoy making and selling crafts. 🌸



Stacey Musick



Woman's Club Donates Defibrillator

The Franconia Township Police Department recently took delivery of a new automated external defibrillator (AED). The members of the Woman's Club of Indian Valley donated the \$3,000 device for the police officers to use during medical emergencies. This AED is the third unit carried in the police patrol cars in the course of each day.

Franconia Officer Albert Gesullo delivered a presentation to the Women's Club, demonstrating how to use the AED in the event of a heart emergency. The portable unit sends an electronic charge to a patient's heart in order to get it out of fibrillation. Since the placement of AED's in patrol cars in 1999, Officer Gesullo has personally revived two men with the unit. Today all officers in the police department receive AED training. Following Officer Gesullo's presentation the Women's Club contributed the AED.

The township recognized the members of the Women's Club of Indian Valley at the monthly Board of Supervisors meeting in August. Chief of Police Joseph Kozeniewski commended the members for their efforts in assisting the police department. The Women's Club raises money at their annual Penny Auction held each fall. 🌸

Maggie Hollenback, Treasurer (left); Betty Jean Way, President (center); present a new automated electronic defibrillator to Franconia Township Police Chief Joe Kozeniewski.



FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Steven P. Barndt, *1st Vice Chairman*
W. Keith Freed, *2nd Vice Chairman*
Drew Darrah
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TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Kevin D. Bayer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration (215) 723-6778
Emergency 9-1-1 or (215) 723-6777

Joseph S. Kozeniewski, *Chief*
Jeffrey C. Gower, *Sergeant / Patrol*
David A. Klepfer, *D.A.R.E. / School Resource Officer*

BUILDING / PLUMBING INSPECTION

(215) 723-1137
Roger M. Koffel

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

(215) 723-1153
Paul R. Nice, *Superintendent of Highways*

Reminder to Post Your House Number

As a safety precaution, we are reminding residents to make sure that your house numbers are clearly visible from the street so that emergency personnel can quickly find you. Leaves and snow can sometimes block curbside numbering, so make sure your house numbers are located either on the house or on the mailbox. 🌸

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