

FrancoTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Fall 2009

National Night Out Against Crime Celebration

On Tuesday, August 4, the Franconia Township Police Department held its 13th annual National Night Out Against Crime celebration. With notably the highest attendance recorded in Franconia Township, the night was a huge success. While enjoying the weather, our guests viewed demonstrations of emergency services and equipment from local, county and regional agencies. In addition, there was a custom car show, model airplane show, and an "information midway."

This year, the police department introduced its 1st annual Public Safety bike race, where officers and public safety personnel face off using children's bikes in their full uniforms. Chief Joseph Kozeniewski paired off with Perseverance Fire Company of Souderton's President Jim Gallagher. The large crowd that gathered to watch the race waved their checkered flags and cheered them down the course. While "Chief Joe" took the 1st place position, both participants were recognized for their effort and spirit.

Please visit www.FranconiaDARE.org for photos and more information. 🌹



Chief Joe Kozeniewski races Jim Gallagher during the National Night Out Against Crime celebration.

Community Information Service

The Franconia Township Police Department has launched a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology.

This service, Nixle, delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications instantly sent to you by cell phone text message, email, and web. There is NO Spam or Advertising. The service is simple to use, reliable and trusted. It is also **COMPLETELY FREE** (standard text message rates apply for cell phone subscribers who do not have text plans with their cell phone providers).

Register now and learn more at:

<http://local.nixle.com/franconia-township-police-department/>

You decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email, or just simply over the web. Stay connected to your world, from the public safety alerts that are relevant to you, to the important neighborhood advisories you want to know about, and other valuable community information.

We are really excited to have you join in the information sharing. 🌹

6th Annual Cure PD 5K Race/Walk

Please join us for the 6th Annual Cure PD 5K Race/Walk and 1 mile fitness walk on October 17th, 2009. The race will start at 9:30AM and registration will open at 8:00AM at the Franconia Township Community Park Pavilion located on Allentown Road. Please visit the race website for additional information at www.curepd.info. 🌹

The New Souderton Area High School Opens in Franconia Township

Souderton Area School District opened the doors of the new high school and welcomed area students on September 8th, 2009. The completed project represents a successful collaboration of Souderton School District Administrators, Franconia Township Officials, Souderton School Board Members, local planning agencies, and community members working together to find the proper location and site design for a state of the art educational institution. The new school is located on 104 sprawling acres comprised of seven separate parcels centrally located within the district. The 445,000 square foot building on Lower Road houses grades 9 through 12. In addition to the building the campus contains a 912 parking spaces, a multi-purpose stadium with 4,000 grandstand seats, artificial turf field, and urethane rubber surfaced running track. There are also seven natural grass multi-purpose fields, three softball fields, and six tennis courts.

The new school will be formally dedicated this fall. The open house and dedication ceremony will be held at the school on Saturday, October 11th, 2009 at 1:00PM. 🌹



Souderton Area High School Pool

Franc Talk Notes

REMEMBER TO VOTE: Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Voter registration forms are available at the township building as are absentee ballots. Listed below are the polling places within Franconia Township. If you are unsure at which polling location you should be voting or you would like additional information pertaining to the election please contact Voter's Registration at 610-278-3280.

POLLING PLACES

Franconia North-East:

Christ Church at Indian Creek, Church & Cowpath Roads, Telford.

Franconia North-West:

Franconia Township Building
671 Allentown Road, Franconia

Franconia South-East:

Immanuel Leidy's United Church
276 West Cherry Lane, Souderton

Franconia South-West:

Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Avenue, Harleysville
(Main Auditorium-Administration Building)

CLEAN-UP AFTER YOUR PETS: Please remember to clean up after your pets. Whether you're walking your dog down your street or in the community park, you are responsible to clean up after your pet. The leash law is in effect within our parks and clean-up bags are available for your use in various locations.

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION: Just a reminder to remember that school is in session. We love our children so please slow down, obey all speed limits, and stay alert and mindful of speeds in school zones!

DISCOUNT SKI TICKETS: The Park & Recreation Board will be selling discount ski tickets again this winter. Please check our website at www.franconiatownship.org to find out what tickets are offered and when they are available. Once the tickets arrive they can be purchased at the Township office located on Allentown Road during normal business hours (M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM). Tickets must be purchased with cash or money order, no checks please!

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 legislative committees that assist the Board of Supervisors in their decision making process. Support your township by being a volunteer!

NOTICE: Any illicit discharge as defined in the Franconia Township Stormwater Ordinance is a violation of the code, and those who dump will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine. 🌹



Souderton Area High School Library

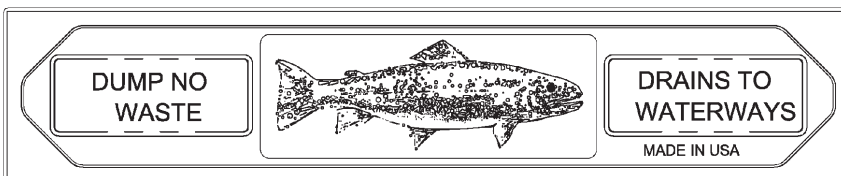
Stormwater & You!

The Township's program to place decals on the tops of neighborhood concrete storm water collection inlets is progressing quickly thanks to the help of many volunteer individuals and organizations. The decal shows a Trout and serves to remind residents that whatever enters these inlets eventually finds its way into our waterways where it can be of adverse impact. As we noted in a previous FrancTalk excess lawn fertilizer, dumping of used motor oil, gasoline spills, detergents from car washing, and even pet wastes, all wash or are deposited into the township's storm sewer system where it drains into our local streams, rivers, lakes and bays, denying us all the opportunities for many types of recreation that would be otherwise possible. These impacts are cumulative such that Franconia's storm water pollutants impact not just our local fishing and swimming but also eventually add to downstream communities discharges to impact the Neshaminy Creek, Skippack Creek, East Branch of the Perkiomen, the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers and eventually Delaware Bay.

Public Education is but one facet of this multi-year program from the State and Federal Environmental Agencies, both part of the Federal Phase II NPDES Storm Water Permitting Program. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, as the designated permitting agency for this Federal Program under the Environmental Protection Agency, requires in federally defined urban areas that communities storm water discharges be permitted. For Franconia, and most of the surrounding municipalities in middle and lower Montgomery, Bucks and Chester Counties, this permit is known as a NPDES-MS4 Stormwater

Permit, which stands for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. Other NPDES permits are issued to Industrial dischargers, Construction Operations involving earth disturbance as well as older Combined Storm and Sanitary Systems within many cities. Our Waste-Water Treatment Plants have long been required to permit their discharges under the Clean Water Act's NPDES program going back to the 1960's. This Storm Water program is a more recent expansion of the CWA by Congress and as it develops and is applied will have significant impacts on local municipal public works and municipal authority budgets.

Franconia Township is now in year six of the current Department of Environmental Protection General Permit Protocol for MS4s. Normally issued in 5 year increments, but delayed one year by DEP for implementation review, we expect the requirements for the next period to be published sometime in the later spring or early summer in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, the State's official rule making publication (PACODE.COM). The increasing responsibilities towards meeting the goals of the program will be a significant increase in scope over the previous protocol, including more specific requirements of actual storm water treatment and scientific monitoring of progress towards the goals of the Clean Water Act as defined by these agencies. These rules, as being in development over the past several years by the Environmental Protection Agency and DEP, including some limited ability to comment by local municipalities of our collective concerns will require the Township to move forward towards additional programs for compliance, and hopefully a cleaner watershed environment. 🌱



A RECYCLING REMINDER FROM THE NORTHERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLING COMMISSION



What & How to Recycle

Aluminum, Steel & Bimetal Cans

All metal food, beverage and aerosol cans are recyclable. All other metal items such as, pots and pans, wire hangers are not recyclable. No lids or covers, just cans. Rinse out and crush aluminum cans if possible.

Glass - Clear, Amber & Green Glass

All glass food, beverage bottles and jars are recyclable.
No lids or covers

Plastics Number 1 & 2

(HDPE & PETE)

Look for the number in the triangle on the bottom of plastic items.

No lids, rinse out containers.

Newspapers, Magazines & Junk Mail

Tie in a bundle or place in a paper bag (Not in Plastic Bags)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

NOTICE:

Montgomery County Recycling Commission & SAVE Community Recycling Day

*Saturday, October 17th
from 9:00AM - 1:00PM*

West Broad Elementary School

SAVE will accept paper, cardboard, scrap metal, tires (\$3 charge), car batteries, and clothing. 🌱



Park & Recreation Summer Wrap-Up

The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board has wrapped up another summer season. This year the park board partnered with Representative Robert Godshall and held the 18th Annual Fishing Derby, provided a youth tennis clinic, sold discount amusement park tickets, and held the 8th Annual Mango Men Concert.

FISHING DERBY: The 18th Annual Youth Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, May 8, 2009 at Branchwood Park. The beautiful spring day was the perfect atmosphere for fishing. Fisherman crowded the banks of the creek all in search of the largest trout. The overall award winning fish was caught by four-year-old Brooke Moffa. All fish were weighed and measured and

then converted to a point total. The trout Brook caught was weighed and measured then converted to a combined score of 26.25. Representative Robert Godshall and Franconia Township sponsored the fishing derby.

8TH ANNUAL MANGO MEN CONCERT IN THE PARK: The 8th Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park was held on Wednesday, July 22nd, 2009. The concert was held at the Franconia Community Park before a banner crowd. The festive night in the park was a complete success, there was island music, dancing and food for all to enjoy! The Franconia Township Park and Recreation Board would like to thank Univest and Hagey Coach & Tours for

sponsoring the concert. They would also like to thank the North Penn Goodwill and Double Dippers of Vernfield for providing burgers and ice cream. Last but not least, a special thanks to the Mango Men for a terrific performance!

YOUTH TENNIS CLINIC: Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board organized a youth tennis program again this summer. The tennis clinic was offered to children ages 7-12 during the first week of August. Monica Bach was the professional instructor recruited to administer the program again this year. Monica provided basic tennis instruction and activities to youngsters. The clinic was very successful and the Board hopes to offer this program again next summer. 🌸

Social Security Statements for Those Who Don't File a Tax Return

By Edward Lafferty

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST,
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, PHILADELPHIA

If you're age 25 or older, pay Social Security taxes and are not yet receiving monthly benefits, you should get an automatic Social Security Statement in the mail each year about two to three months before your birthday. The Statement is a valuable tool to keep track of your annual earnings, as well as to help you plan your financial future.

But if your earnings don't meet the threshold for filing a federal tax return, you might not be receiving your annual Social Security Statement. Social Security would like to make sure that you know you're entitled to one.

Everyone who has worked and paid Social Security tax is entitled to receive a Statement. So, if you don't get one automatically in the mail, you can request one from Social Security — and the easiest way to do that is online

Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement and select the "Need to request a Statement?" banner. You'll need to fill in the following information to make your request:

- Your name as shown on your Social Security card;
- Your Social Security number;
- Your date of birth;
- Your place of birth; and
- Your mother's maiden name — last name only (to help identify you).

You also can provide the following information to make your estimate more accurate:

- Your last year's earnings and an estimate of your current and future earnings; and
- The age you plan to stop working.

Once you make your request, Social Security will mail you a Statement, which you should receive within two to four weeks. Give it a careful look to make sure your earnings and information are reported correctly, and contact Social Security if you find anything amiss.

After you review your Statement, it's a good idea to keep it with your other important papers. And if you'd like to go one step further in your retirement planning, visit our online Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator, where you can get an instant estimate of your future benefits based on your earnings record and plug in various retirement age scenarios.

Whether retirement is just around the corner or a long way down the road, Social Security is ready to serve you at www.socialsecurity.gov. 🌹


Eagle Scout Projects

Diego Brazzo recently completed his Eagle Scout Project at Enos Godshall Park and along the Mopac/Banbury Trail. With assistance from volunteers, Diego installed the first orienteering course in the community. Orienteering is a process of using maps and compasses to navigate through a particular area reaching designated points. There are wooden markers at each point along the course with an impression stamp attached. As each point is reached, the impression is stamped onto a sheet of paper. Once all the points are reached the individual has successfully completed the course. A link to that website can be found at www.franconiatownship.org. On behalf of Franconia Township we congratulate Diego Brazzo for completing his project and obtaining his Eagle Scout Status. 🌹



Diego Brazzo is pictured here next to a marker that can be found along his orienteering course.

Basketball Nets in the Street

Township officials are again concerned with the growing number of basketball stands in the street. Over the past year the code enforcement department has sent out letters to a dozen residents regarding this issue. The streets are there for the purpose of vehicle travel and were not intended to be used as basketball courts. Individual developments are the areas where the majority of the basketball stands can be found. Many of the developments are inundated with these basketball stands often having multiple nets per street. At this point in time there is no particular ordinance prohibiting the basketball nets from being placed on the street, the township feels that it is the responsibility of the owner should something happen. The possibility of drafting an ordinance is under review. 

2009 Franconia Township Leaf Collection Program

Franconia Township will be continuing the leaf collection program again this year. The collection will be provided by J.P. Mascaro. Important details are listed below along with a collection schedule. Any questions should be directed to J.P. Mascaro at 1-800-444-6272.

- 1) Leaves must be placed in the biodegradable paper leaf bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted. Free Leaf bags can be obtained at the Township Building located at 671 Allentown Road, Franconia PA. The bags are available to Franconia Township residents only!! The office is opened Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM.
- 2) The bags must only contain leaves. Other household refuse or yard waste cannot be intermixed with the leaves.

Bags containing items other than leaves will not be picked up by the hauler.

- 3) Place the leaf bags at the curb or street side where normal trash is picked up.

The leaf bags and leaves will be picked up. The bags will not be dumped and returned.

The Township has been divided into 2 sections for leaf collections. A map of the section can be viewed at the township office or on the township website at www.franconiatownship.org. Leaves will be collected between the hours of 6:00AM and 4:00PM on the following dates for the following sections:

SECTION 1: Thursday, November 19th, 2009; December 3rd, 2009; December 17th, 2009 – North East & South East portion of

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128
Franconia PA 18924
(215) 723-1137
www.franconiatownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Steven P. Barndt, *Chairman*
Grey R. Godshall, *1st Vice Chairman*
W. Keith Freed, *2nd Vice Chairman*
Drew Darrah
Curtis N. Kratz

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Kevin D. Bayer


POLICE DEPARTMENT
Administration (215) 723-6777
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, *Code Enforcement Officer*
Jerry Rittenhouse, *Building Inspector*
/Code Enforcement Officer

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
(215) 723-1153
Paul R. Nice, *Public Works Director*

township from Allentown Road (Including Memory Ln & Harvest Dr.) to Route 113 out to Godshall Road, from Godshall Road out to the Telford & Souderton Borough Line and from Godshall Road down to Hatfield Township Line.

SECTION 2: Friday, November 20th, 2009; December 4th, 2009; December 18th, 2009 – North West & South West portion of township from below Allentown Road down to Route 113 out to Lower Salford & Salford Township; Allentown Road from Route 113 down to Hatfield Township Line out to Lower Salford Township. 

Franconia Township
671 Allentown Road
P.O. Box 128
Franconia PA 18924



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