

FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Fall 2013

Police Department has Accreditation Status Renewed

On June 26th, the Franconia Township Police Department was re-accredited by the Pennsylvania police accreditation commission. The department first achieved this distinction in 2010. Each renewed designation lasts for a three-year period. The accreditation program is administered by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. Franconia is one of only 90 accredited police departments in the Commonwealth.

Police Chief Joe Kozeniewski said that the road to completing the process is initially labor intensive. "We had to measure our policies and practices as compared to the nationally accepted standards for police departments. Fortunately, most of our policies already complied with those standards. We learned that the



PCPA President John Mackey; PCPA Executive Director Amy Rosenberry; Cpl. Steve Cronin; Sgt. Steve Rinker; Chief Joe Kozeniewski; Det. Sgt. George H. Moyer III; PA Accreditation Commission Chairman Chief Robert Ruxton.

biggest chore was to document, document, document nearly everything that we did."

Policies such as the proper handling of prisoners, documentation of citizen complaints, vehicle pursuits, and the

like are examined very carefully. By having the officers comply with these standards, the risks of liability are greatly reduced for the police department and Franconia Township. 🌹

Franconia Sewer Authority Construction Updates

Franconia Sewer Authority has completed work on Phase 1 of the Lower Skippack Sewer District. This Phase includes Allentown Road from Franconia Square to just below Bragg Road, Lower Road from the Souderton Area High School to just past Moyer Road, Moyer Road from Lower to Halteman, and Halteman Road from Moyer to Allentown. Phase 2 of this project should get underway later this year or early next year and consists of Delp Road from Allentown to Bragg. 🌹

Sergeant Steve Rinker Graduates from FBI National Academy

Congratulations to Sergeant Steve Rinker! On Friday, June 14th, he graduated from the 253rd Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He spent the past ten weeks in-residence at the Academy while completing college-level courses in subjects such as Leadership, Human Relations, and Forensics. These courses are taught by instructors who are agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

There is also an emphasis on personal nutrition and physical health. Steve completed the six mile run, known as the Yellow Brick Road, at the end of the session. All students who complete the run are presented a yellow painted brick as they cross the finish line. Not to be outdone, the Sergeant also earned a blue brick for swimming 34 miles in the Academy pool during the ten weeks.

Steve and his 270 other classmates from around the world are a rare breed. Less than one-half of one percent of law enforcement officers will ever have the opportunity to attend the NA. Retiring FBI Director Robert Mueller presented Steve with his diploma at the graduation ceremonies. We're looking forward to great things from Steve upon his return to Franconia. 🌹

Special Needs Open House

The Franconia Township Police Department hosted its first Special Needs Open House on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the police department, thanks to one local mother who made a suggestion through Facebook.

The purpose of this open house was to provide those with a special need in our community a relaxed and fun experience at their local police department. Our goal was to promote a dialogue between the special needs community and the police, provide them with specific public safety information, education, and safety, and to get to know those in our community better. Overall, we hoped to dispel possible fears and anxieties, should they need to have contact with a police officer in the future. The turnout was better than expected, and the community support was beyond what we envisioned. The event included the following activities:

- *Tours of the police department*
- *Police Officer meet and greet*
- *Up-close look at a fire truck, ambulance, and police car (sirens remained off)*
- *Fingerprint kits, compliments of Univest Bank and Trust Co.*
- *Children's activities, including:
~ Bounce house, face or hand painting, coloring station, balloon animals, and give-away bags*
- *Special needs/public safety brochures and information*
- *Montgomery County Special Needs Registry sign up*
- *In-house special needs registration*
- *Light snacks and refreshments*

To register your loved one in our in-house registry, visit www.Franconiapolice.com for more information! 

Franc Talk Notes

REMEMBER TO VOTE – Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. 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

Precinct 1

Franconia Township Building
671 Allentown Road, Franconia

Precinct 2

Christ Reformed Church
Church & Cowpath Roads, Telford

Precinct 3

Christ Reformed Church
Church & Cowpath Roads, Telford

Precinct 4

Franconia Township Building
671 Allentown Road, Franconia

Precinct 5

Immanuel Leidy's Church
276 W. Cherry Lane, Souderton

Precinct 6

Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Avenue, Harleysville

Precinct 7

Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Avenue, Harleysville

Precinct 8

Immanuel Leidy's Church
276 W. Cherry Lane, Souderton

Special Needs In-House Registry

Do you have a friend or loved one in Franconia Township who may need special assistance if they are involved in an emergency? Please visit our website at www.Franconiapolice.org to complete the special needs registry form. The purpose of this form is to provide officers of the Franconia Township Police Department with specific information related to the individual with special needs, so that they may reference it in the event of an emergency. Simply fill it out and return it to the department with a current photo and we'll keep it on file, confidentially.

This is in addition to the county's Special Needs Registry, which can be found online at www.specialneeds.pa.org.

Any questions, please call the police department at 215-723-6777. 

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.

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 8AM-4:30PM). Tickets must be purchased with cash or money order, no checks please! There are a few discount amusement park tickets still available as well.

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. 

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" to 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 and 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.* 🌹

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Remember that taking the time to recycle helps to improve the land, air, water, and finances of Franconia Township. Simply sort plastics, aluminum, glass, and bi-metallic cans and place in a recycling bin. Newsprint and other paper must be bagged separately. Make sure the cans and bottles are washed out and the lids have been removed and discarded in the regular trash. Then place the recyclables out on the curb for your private waste hauler to pick up on trash day. Free rectangular recycling bins and bio degradable paper bags are available to residents at the Township building.

RESIDENTIAL-LIST OF MATERIALS

- **Glass:** clear, green, brown
- **Cans:** aluminum, tin, steel, bi-metal
- **Plastics:** #1 PET and #2 HDPE
- **Newspaper:** color, glossy print, junk mail, magazines, phone books, office/copy paper, and cereal/cracker boxes
- Steel cans, bimetallic cans, No. 1 PET plastics and No. 2 HDPE plastics.
- Leaf and yard waste

NON-RESIDENTIAL-LIST OF MATERIALS

- Corrugated paper
- High-grade office paper
- Aluminum cans
- Yard waste

HOSPITALITY ESTABLISHMENTS-LIST OF MATERIALS

- Cardboard
- Office paper
- Newspaper (*including newspaper inserts, junk mail and telephone books*)
- Aluminum cans, steel cans, bimetallic cans
- Plastic- #1 PET; and #2 HDPE plastic

Franconia Township has a recycling drop-off area located at the Public Works Department Garage at 480 Indian Creek Road, Telford. There you will find dumpsters designated for recyclable materials. The area is un-gated and available for 24 hour drop-off 7 days a week. Leaf and yard waste can be dropped off at the Barnside Composting Center located at 991 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, PA 19743. 🌹

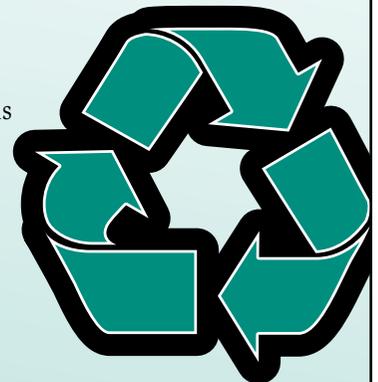




PHOTO BY JANICE FRARY.

Basket Raffle-Food Drive. Many local companies added items to this year's raffle to help generate food donations. It was the largest raffle to date.

National Night Out Against Crime Event

On Tuesday, August 6, 2013, the Franconia Township Police Department held its 17th annual National Night Out Against Crime event at the Franconia Community Park. Thanks to the numerous volunteers, donors, supporters, and organizations, this year's Night Out was a huge success! As a result of the July Food Drive and the Basket Raffle-Food Drive at the main event, over 1,500 pounds of food, \$222 in cash and \$100 in Landis gift cards were collected and donated to local food pantries.

40+ Public Safety related organizations participated, providing guests with demonstrations, meet and greets, giveaways, and information. It was a fantastic display of our community-public safety relations!

Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick, Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Ferman, Souderton Borough Police Chief James Leary, Telford Borough Police Chief Randy Floyd, Franconia Township Police Chief Koz, and Perseverance Fire Company Present Jim "Porky" Gallagher faced off on children's bikes again for our Public Safety Bike Race. They were all such great sports!

For more information about our event and to view the amazing photos, please visit the department's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/franconiapolice. 🌸



PHOTO BY JANICE FRARY.

Telford & Harleysville Fire Companies raising of the American flag at the event entrance. Ironically, this is the exact moment the questionable weather moved out for the remainder of the evening.



PHOTO BY COLLEEN POPINY.

Chief Koz with the winner of the Franconia PD's Facebook Wear-a-Helmet FREE bike raffle!



PHOTO BY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick and Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Ferman racing during the Public Safety Bike Race.

Leaf Collection Program

Private municipal waste haulers operating within Franconia Township are required to offer a curbside leaf collection to residents. As required by Ordinance #359, private municipal waste collectors must conduct the pick-up 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 during normal business hours. For additional information on the leaf collection program and a list of scheduled pick-up dates please visit our website at: <http://franconiatownship.org/details/recycling.aspx> 🌸

Stormwater & You Too!

In past articles we have spoken of the regulatory developments obligating the Township to address the negative effects of Stormwater runoff from our streets, parks and municipal buildings. Central to those efforts are new requirements to reduce the amount of excess nutrients of phosphorous entering our creeks, streams and waterways, which is directly coupled with the excess volume of increased runoff from turf grass, roofs, paving and other man altered land surfaces. One of those control measures is the planting of Trees.

Planting Trees may appear to be a simple solution to the complex problem of reducing our runoff along with the nutrients and sediment loads that it carries into our watercourses, but it is an important component to the strategy. One needs to just go back to the era of original settlement when our ancestors cleared the forests for their farms. Although the native tribes did have fields for their form of agriculture, and are known to have burned woods to encourage meadow formation to attract game, the settlers more intensely cleared the woodlands resulting in a surge of eroded sediments into the creeks and streams we see today. These 'legacy' sediment deposits are largely still there, having filled the natural floodplains they continue to move about, both eroding and re-depositing with each major storm.

Why the emphasis on tree planting? By replacing areas of turf grass, marginal former agricultural fields, and other open areas with trees (whether as a landscape vista or full reforestation) we provide a 'best management practice' able to decrease the volume of Stormwater entering our waterways. The decrease can be substantial. A recent academic paper compared Hackberry trees of different maturities. A 5 year old tree will intercept 133 gallons of rainfall runoff a year which increases to 1394 gallons a year for a 20 year old tree. With maturity, at 40 years, this interception becomes 5,387 gallons!

For full forested areas the effect is magnified by the density of the tree's canopy which combined with the forest litter, intercept rainfall, protect the soils and enhance infiltration. The difference when compared with an adjoining field soil is that the forested area can absorb rainfall 50 times as fast! This combination of canopy and litter interception, increased infiltration, and the transpiration that the trees perform in their biological action of taking up ground water in their roots for release into the air, together make tree planting and reforestation one of the most potent protections we can provide our watersheds from the negative effects of excess and rapid rainfall runoff.

Some general guidelines for landscape tree plantings, where lawn or ornamental grasses are to be maintained, would be to space your plantings for the eventual mature spread of the canopy and distance from structures or overhead utility lines. Dependent on the selected species, 50 feet between is a good general standard for larger specimens. An arborist or your retail

landscape nursery provider can give more specific recommendations.

If re-establishing a wooded area for future forest the objective is to re-establish a natural landscape. Trees are often planted more closely together, preferably a mix of local species, in a generally random pattern. In time, while growing to maturity, competition will thin out the trees to form natural spacing for maximum canopy - exactly what we seek for rainfall canopy interception. Research has shown that a full canopy (in smaller rain storms) can intercept up to 100% of precipitation and prevent the precipitation from entering the watercourses. Reducing flash floods, acting as a 'carbon sink' for global warming, reducing and treating excess nutrients are all natural functions of our trees and woodlands. Creating woodlands is a Township strategy for compliance with the federal permit requirements. Working together with residents, businesses, and institutions, the Township intends to beautify our parks and open spaces as we enhance our environment. 🌿

FREE Senior Adult Fraud Education Training

Each year the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce hosts a Community Leadership Institute class in which participants from various local businesses learn about all the organizations located throughout our community. Over the years, both Franconia Township and the Franconia Township Police Department employees have attended this class. Janice Frary, an Administrative Assistant, was this year's participant. While visiting local organizations and businesses, the class of 2013 saw a deficit in our community that needed to be addressed. Senior adults are falling victim to fraud in rising numbers in our area, and in the rest of the Country. Seniors need to be better educated and equipped to handle fraudulent situations. Thanks to the highly talented and diversified CLI class, they came together and created the FREE S.A.F.E. training program.

S.A.F.E. stands for "Senior Adult Fraud Education" - a FREE Train-the-Trainer program provided to your organization by the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Institute. The goal is to empower senior adults by providing information and tips on how to handle the various fraudulent situations they may encounter. S.A.F.E. is a 4-part training course. Each training lesson lasts approximately 30 minutes.

To view and download the SAFE Training videos and information online, visit the resources section on the Police Chief's of Montgomery County's website at <http://www.montcopachiefs.org/> 🌿

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 22nd Annual Fishing Derby. They offered a multi-sports camp, tennis camps, and girls' softball camp. They also sold discount amusement park tickets, and held a concert in the park featuring a band named the Mighty Manatees.

FISHING DERBY

The 22nd Annual Youth Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Branchwood Park. The event, which is hosted by Robert W. Godshall and the Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board, was a complete success. Anthony Simmons, age 6, was the overall winner of the derby with a point total of 33.5. Forrest Hoch, age 10, took home first place honors in the 9-12 age group. Congrats to all the winners and everyone who participated in the event. For a full list of winners please visit the parks and recreation section of the Franconia Township Website at www.franconiatownship.org.

SPORTS CAMP

The Park and Recreation Board held a multi-sports camp again this summer.

Steve Wherry and Renee DiDomizio provided professional instruction to the campers. The camp featured a number of different activities with a focus on tennis and ultimate Frisbee. The camp was held for four days in June. The board hopes to expand this camp next summer as it was very successful and enjoyed by many children.

ANNUAL CONCERT IN THE PARK

The Annual Concert in the Park was held on Wednesday, July 17th, 2013 and featured a new band this year, The Mighty Manatees. The band played a collection of reggae and classic rock songs for the concert goers. The festive night in the park was filled with good music, dancing and water ice for all to enjoy! The Franconia Township Park and Recreation Board would like to thank Uninvest and Hagey Coach & Tours for sponsoring the concert. They would also like to thank the North Penn Goodwill for providing burgers, and the Boy Scout Troop #41 for providing water ice.

YOUTH TENNIS CAMPS

Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board organized a youth tennis program again this summer. This year there were a number of tennis camps offered during the months of June and July for children

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road
Telford PA 18969-2205
(215) 723-1137
www.franconiatownship.org

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Emergency 9-1-1

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Roger M. Koffel, *Code Enforcement Officer*
Jerry Rittenhouse, *Building Inspector*
/Code Enforcement Officer

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

ages 6-12. A teen camp was added to the program this year and was held 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 camp was very successful and the Board will offer this program again next summer. 

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email or view it on the township website rather than receive a paper copy please contact the township office to sign-up and remove your name from the mailing list.

Franconia Township
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