

FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Fall 2010

National Night Out a Success

On Tuesday, August 3, 2010, the Franconia Township Police Department held its 14th annual National Night Out Against Crime celebration at the township park on Allentown Road. With the help of our community, volunteers, organizations, and department members, this year's celebration was a huge success. With an estimate of over 4,000 attendees, this was the largest attended Night Out event in Franconia's history. This was a clear example of Franconia Township's strong community-police partnership.

Thanks to your support, we gave back to our community beyond the hours of the event itself. We collected enough non-perishable food donations to fill the bed of a full-sized pick up truck, which was then donated to three local food banks. We plan to make this a large part of our Night Out event each year.

You can enjoy the many photos of our spectacular and memorable celebration on our Facebook page. Please also visit our supporters' page on our website to see the list of over 80 participants! It's the support of these organizations and volunteers that makes this event so great.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the volunteers, community members, and organizations that helped make the event so great. Thank you for your generosity, support and partnership with the Franconia Township Police Department! 🌹



Officer Albert Gesullo hands out checkered flags to attendees before the start of the 2nd annual public safety bike race.



Hahnemann University Hospital's Med-Evac helicopter landing and demonstration. Those on the R&J Farm Market hay ride had a great view!

Souderton Perseverance Fire Company President Jim Gallagher just moments after taking 1st place against Franconia's Police Chief Joseph Kozeniewski in the public safety bike race.



Girl Scout Receives Bronze Award

Lilly Talmadge recently received the Bronze Award for her birdhouse project. Lilly constructed and donated five birdhouses to Franconia Township. She constructed the houses out of cedar, a bird friendly wood, and presented them to the Park and Recreation Committee at their June 2010 meeting. She explained that she had been walking with her family along the Banbury/MOPAC Trail when she noticed that the existing birdhouses were in need of repair. She decided to take on the project and construct new birdhouses to replace the damaged ones she noticed on her walk. The new houses have been hung along the Banbury/Mopac Trail. The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors and the Franconia Township Parks and Recreation Committee would like to thank Lilly for her contribution to the community and commend her on a job well done. 🌿



Girl Scout Lilly Talmadge stands next to one of the birdhouses she donated to the Township.

Franc Talk Notes

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

– Franconia Township, Franconia Township Police Department, and the Franconia Township Sewer Authority recently changed their address due to the closing of the local post office. The new address is:

**671 Allentown Road
Telford, PA 18969-2205**

SEWER CUSTOMERS –

Be sure to make the change with any vendors/banks that you use for automatic bill payment to ensure your payment is received and applied to your account.

REMEMBER TO VOTE – Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. 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

NO POSTING – The Franconia Township Police Department would like to remind residents that it is illegal to post anything on street signs, poles, and private properties. This is an official offense of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code Section 6503 and 6905. If anyone is caught in violation of this code they will be cited and charged with a summary offense.

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!

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. 🌿

Franconia Sewer Authority Update

Two major wastewater projects are nearing completion. The new treatment plant located between Souder Road and the Skippack Creek should be fully operational in November 2010. This facility provides treatment for the Souderton Area School District High School located on Lower Road. It will also be able to provide service (in the future) to what the Township has identified as the Lower Skippack Sewer District. This will include properties located along portions of Halteman, Lower, Schoolhouse, Moyer, Souder, Forman, Delp, Meetinghouse, Kulp, and Hagey Roads. The specific properties to be eventually served will be outlined in a Component 3M submission (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) that is used to modify the Township's 537 Plan (a document identifying sewer service availability and future growth areas). Once all of the portions of the Component 3M are complete it will be available for public inspection and comment (a notice will be put in the local newspaper).

The second major project nearing completion is the Earlington Sewer District. The final piece in this project is a pump station to be located on Allentown Road near Green Hill Road and the Branch Creek. This pump station will provide public sewer service to portions of Allentown, Sunset, and Rising Sun Roads. The pump station will also provide service to Salford Township residents in the Tylersport area. Anticipated completion is scheduled for October 2010.

Other smaller projects that the Authority will be working on (along with the above) is a small segment of sewers on Godshall Road near Reliance (schedule to complete this year), and Leslie Lane (scheduled for next year). 

2010 Leaf Collection Program

Franconia Township will be continuing the leaf collection program again this year. The service will be provided by BFI Waste Services of PA LLC this year.

- 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.

Additional yard waste can be dropped off at the Barnside Farm

Compost Facility. You must call to arrange a drop-off. The facility is located on Haldeman Road in Lower Salford Township. Please call 610-888-7719 for more information. You can view the compost agreement on our website at www.franconiatownship.org under the archive section.

SECTION 1: Thursdays, Oct. 28th; Nov. 18th; Dec. 16th, 2010 - North East & South East portion of 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: Fridays, Oct. 29th; Nov. 19th; Dec. 17th, 2010 - 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. 

Use & Occupancy Permits

The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors is considering a pending ordinance pertaining to a new requirement for use and occupancy permits (U&O's) for residential re-sales in the Township. Currently, the Township requires U&O's for new construction and any commercial structures but not for the sale of existing homes. That may change later this year. The purpose of such an ordinance is to allow for the inspection of each structure and property for safety and zoning compliance. The proposed ordinance addresses (among many other items) verification of zoning conformance for sheds, decks, pools, and other accessory structures, confirms that dwelling units are in fair, habitable and useable condition and are free from any building code violations, and that sump pumps/basement drains are not discharging into the sanitary sewer system. In addition, the ordinance addresses a number of various safety items associated with a residential dwelling such as the presence of smoke detectors, fire separation walls in twins and row homes, and required railings on stairs, porches and decks, etc.

If the ordinance is adopted, anyone selling a home or their representative will be responsible to complete and submit an application for a U&O permit. Upon the satisfactory inspection(s) of the property, the building inspector will issue a permit. The fee proposed for this process is \$200. The ordinance is currently available for public review at the Township Office located at 671 Allentown Road. The office is opened Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM. 

West Broad Walking Trail Completed

The Township recently added a new walking trail to the Township's trail network. This important piece of the network links the Harrington Village Trail and Open Space area to West Broad Street through the West Broad Elementary School Property. The 8-foot wide paved trail that is .55 miles long begins at the pedestrian bridge located along the perimeter of the Harrington Village Development. It comes across Township Open Space and then meanders along the property line of the West Broad Elementary School. The trail transitions into a natural trail through the woods near the S.A.V.E. House and then transitions back into a paved trail terminating at West Broad Street where the existing sidewalk takes over.

The successful completion of the trail is a result of hard-work and cooperation on behalf of Franconia Township,



Newly constructed West Broad Trail.

the Souderton Area School District, and the surrounding neighbors. The various entities worked together to determine the proper alignment of the trail, the appropriate buffering and trail materials, the terms pertaining to its maintenance, and the actual construction of the trail. An

easement agreement was reached between the Township and School District in late June of 2010. The Franconia Township Public Works Department began working on the trail shortly thereafter. The trail was completed in August 2010. 🌸

Banbury Crossing Celebrates Five Years of Holiday Caroling and Food Drive

Saturday, December 11th at 4PM (rain-date - Sunday, December 12th) will mark Banbury Crossing's 5th Annual Caroling and Food Drive Event.

This event started in 2006 as local neighbors in Banbury Crossing realized a tradition was soon to be lost to their children. Holiday Caroling was all but dead in our communities. While talking one hot summer July night the neighbors decided they could Holiday Carol and help the local community. A food drive would help drive participation and Banbury Crossing was a young development with tremendous compassion and desire to help. Even in that first year, the out pouring from residents was heart stopping. The group has continued the tradition each year since.

Every year since the inception of the program more and more Carolers arrive to assist in the food drive and Holiday cheer. With the assistance of many local organizations the outing has proved a

success year after year. The Souderton Fire Company arrives with Santa and others in tow. In addition, the Franconia Police Department not only helps to provide local street safety but brings out the most desired DARE Patrol Car. Local Boy Scout Troop 178 Kulpville and 401 Souderton has always worked to help us collect the donated non-perishables along the way. The weather has even cooperated most years. The Food Drive each year had provided over a pick-up truck filled with non-perishable food, baby and standard personal care products. The collection goes to the Keystone Opportunity Center.

All interested in Holiday Caroling are welcome to join this year. For further information please contact Elizabeth Garvin-Clarke at 215-721-0603, egarvinclark@comcast.net or just arrive at the Walking Trail parking lot by the pond at the intersection of Middle Park Drive and Banbury Drive prior to our kick off time. 🌸

Recycling Information

Curbside recycling is mandatory in Franconia Township so all waste haulers operating within our township must offer this service. Recycle bins are available for township residents for free at the administrative office located on Allentown Road.

Additional Recycling: Additional recycling can be done at Franconia Township Highway Maintenance Department located at 480 Indian Creek Road. There are two comingled dumpsters for glass, plastic beverage containers #1 and #2, metal and aluminum cans. Cardboard may be placed in the third dumpster. Please crush boxes, etc. before placing in the dumpster.

In conjunction with recycling requirements, the Township will be offering the curbside leaf collection program again this fall. Bids are currently being accepted and the specific dates for the collections will be forthcoming. Please refer to the leaf collection article for more details on the program. 🌸

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 19th Annual Fishing Derby, provided three youth tennis clinics, sold discount amusement park tickets, and held the 9th Annual Mango Men Concert. The board also arranged an adult tennis tournament and worked with area residents to support a community yard sale in the park. Other special events in the park included the Crossing the Finish Line Organization's Family Fun Run and Picnic, Peter Angstadt's Memorial Foundation's Drug Awareness Poker Run and Picnic, and the Souderton Charter's School Car Show and Flea Market. A new walking trail was recently added to the Township (see West Broad Trail Article) and in the fall new park equipment will be added to the Franconia Community Park Playground. In addition, the board supported both a Girl Scout and Eagle Scout project in local parks.



Represented Robert Godshall is pictured here with the winners of the 19th Annual Fishing Derby Contest.

FISHING DERBY – The 19th Annual Youth Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at Branchwood Park. The event, which is hosted by Robert W. Godshall and the Franconia Township Parks & Recreation Board, was a complete success. The overall winner of the derby was Amber Lamont. Congrats to all the winners and everyone who participated in the event. For a complete list of winners please visit our website at www.franconiatownship.org.

NINTH ANNUAL MANGO MEN CONCERT IN THE PARK – The 9th

Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park was held on Wednesday, July 14th, 2010. The concert was held at the Franconia Community Park before a large crowd of fans. The festive night in the park, as always, was filled with island music, dancing and food 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 and Double Dippers Ice Cream for providing burgers and ice cream as well as Leidy's Pork Products for donating sausage grillers that were prepared and sold as a fundraising effort for the Souderton Boys Ice Hockey Team.

YOUTH TENNIS CLINIC – Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board organized a youth tennis program again this summer. This year the tennis clinic was offered in three sessions throughout the summer to children ages 6-12 during June, July, and 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. Please note we will not be holding a fall clinic due to scheduling conflicts. 🌹



The Mango Men perform at the Community Park during their 9th Annual Concert.

Stormwater & You Too!

Events in the news this summer concerning the new rules for stormwater management and their potential local impacts have highlighted the ongoing efforts of Franconia Township and the other municipal members of the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities to engage in dialogue with the Department of Environmental Resources on their MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer) Permit Program. In response to the many letters received, the department recently extended the current permit protocol and the agreed upon form of actions that the township is required to follow for a second annual extension until March 9, 2011. This program was briefly outlined in the last issue of FrancTalk. The extension is welcomed action by the PA DEP as it allows additional time for all to work through the many concerns expressed on the new rules. To the department's additional credit, they also participated at the invitation of Representative Robert Godshall, in a lively question and answer "listening" session recently hosted here at the Franconia Township Building. The department's representatives and the consortium's members were able to dialogue on the many new requirements, difficulties with their practical

implementation and associated costs, witnessed by Representative Godshall and the other state legislative representatives. Improvements to the new permit rules are expected as a result of these interactions between your representatives, both on the township, county, and state levels.

Where the "YOU TOO" comes in is the recognition that this program is not just about the organized local representatives of your township and state assembly working with the EPA and DEP to manage stormwater. It is also about how YOU TOO manage your own small part of the stormwater runoff through your own day to day activities. How you manage your property's lawn care, including fertilizers, disposal of lawn cuttings and leaves; maintenance and care of automobiles and other mechanized machinery, including collection and proper disposal of oils, grease and wash water; cleaning up and disposal of pet waste; collection of downspout runoff into rain barrels for recycling and into "rain gardens" to capture runoff for infiltration and transpiration through the enhanced root and leaf systems that such vegetation affords (that is not available in normal lawn turf grass) and of course, never placing any liquids, trash

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road
Telford PA 18969-2205
(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

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*

or other materials down stormwater drains or into watercourses. Working together, individual residents, the business community, our farmers and Franconia Township, are being called upon to do much to improve or stormwater runoff for a cleaner watershed environment. Visit the township's website for links to learn more on what you can do! 

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.

Prst Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Telford, PA
Permit No. 29

Franconia Township
671 Allentown Road
Telford PA 18969-2205

