

franc talk



Fall 2020

A Message from Police Chief Michael L. Martin

I am sure that we all can agree that the year 2020 has brought about more changes to our lifestyles than anyone could have imagined. Daily routines for many have been thrust into the “new normal” and the business of policing was no exception. Fortunately, we continued uninterrupted police services and have adapted to the pandemic and positively responded to changing societal needs.

Like all First Responders and Essential Workers, the police department needed to quickly obtain personal protective equipment. We were able to procure fit-tested masks along with a sufficient supply of coveralls, shoe covers, eye protection and sterile gloves. We also benefited greatly from donated equipment, supplied by thoughtful residents and businesses. The outpouring of support we received has been truly humbling. With all the new equipment and the ever-changing dynamics of managing COVID-19, we created new procedures to keep officers and the public safe. Certain schedules were altered, on-line and telephone reporting was initiated, and policies were enacted to ensure we continue the highest level of safe and efficient services. In addition to keeping up with the rigors of patrol and investigations, our Police Benevolent Association sprang into action to assist area families in need. Partnering with several local businesses and donors, the Police Association worked to provide meals and essentials for struggling families during the height of the pandemic.



FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

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www.franconiatownship.org

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jon A. Hammer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration 215-723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1
Michael L. Martin, Chief
George H. Moyer III, Sergeant/Detective Division

BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

215-723-1137
Roger M. Koffel,
Code Enforcement Director
Jerry Rittenhouse, Building
Inspector/Code Enforcement Director

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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



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A Message from Police Chief Michael L. Martin (cont.)

The police department also responded to the rapid change surrounding the movement for social justice and racial equality by reaffirming our core values and reviewing policies. Thanks to Accreditation, our policies and procedures are among the most up to date in all of law enforcement. Even though our current operating procedures meet or exceed those prescribed by newer police reform initiatives, we are always looking for ways to improve. Education, training, professionalism and community dialogue have been and always will be the cornerstone of policing in Franconia Township. We take great pride in protecting and serving all people equally.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our many residents and businesses who have reached out in support of our police department and the officers. I also want to thank those who have asked questions and sought information about policing in Franconia Township. This dialogue is both necessary and healthy. I am very proud to let people know about the high moral and ethical character of our officers. We are incredibly fortunate to serve in true partnership with everyone in this great community. Together, we will all keep Franconia Township a safe, peaceful and flourishing community.

Township Staff Available By Appointment

In response to the COVID-19 guidelines, the Township staff continue to remain available by appointment. While we encourage conducting business online or by phone whenever possible, permits may be picked up in person through the scheduling of an appointment. Staff is readily available to answer questions and assist with the permit process either by phone or email.

It is now and always has been the goal of the administrative staff to issue permits in a timely and efficient manner. Permit applications are available on the Building and Zoning page of the Township website, www.franconiatownship.org. Completed and signed applications may either be mailed or dropped off at the Township building via a drop box located to the left of the front doors. The box is checked daily as staff continues to serve the residents in a manner keeping both the residents' and staffs' safety a priority.





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Police Department Reaffirms Core Values

The Police Department has reaffirmed the core values of the organization and made some changes to better reflect the mission of current-era policing. The fleet of marked patrol cars will now display the three values as a constant reminder to officers and the public of the qualities afforded all people in Franconia Township.

INTEGRITY:

We will strive to uphold the public's trust by being honest, competent and consistent in our beliefs and actions. We will hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct.

RESPECT:

We will treat all people with respect and dignity as we take pride in our profession, our community and ourselves. Working as a team, we will strive to be role models for our community by respecting the significance of human life and honoring individual human rights.

SERVICE:

We will dedicate ourselves to improve the quality of life in our community by providing a safe environment for all. We are committed to protecting life and property, reducing fear and developing a partnership with citizens to prevent and solve crimes.





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Franconia Weathers Financial Storm Caused By Coronavirus

The last several months have been an unsettling time for all of us as a community. The devastating effects of the coronavirus has created financial insecurity in our households, businesses, and throughout our communities. Thankfully, in Franconia Township, we have planned and prepared well for situations like this. Financial planning and budgeting in local government means preparing for emergencies. Whether it be ice storms, sinkholes, or public health pandemics, seemingly there is always an unforeseen emergency just around the corner. For many in local government, this came to light during the financial collapse of 2008, where local governments suffered greatly, having to significantly raise taxes and cut services.

For the past several years, the Township Supervisors have worked hard to put the Township in a strong financial position, while keeping taxes amongst the lowest in the County. Franconia Township has very little debt for a municipality its size and has recently refinanced old debt to take advantage of historically low interest rates.

Franconia Township has taken steps few other municipalities have taken. Each month, we have an independent CPA firm review and report on the Township's financial condition. Each year, we have a separate independent CPA firm provide an annual audit of the Township's books, which are posted on the Township's website for complete transparency. This formula provides additional checks and balances, while keeping costs down.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Township's financial condition during COVID or anytime, can reach out to Township Manager Jon Hammer at 215-723-1137 or jhammer@franconia-township.org.

CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19



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Public Works Department Continues Serving Township

The Franconia Township Public Works Department is not too far behind with the projects that were planned for this year after one week of emergency only operations due to the Stay-at-Home Order declared by Governor Wolf.

Once things settled down a bit, we knew that nature was not going to wait for the virus to go away so we needed to concentrate on winter cleanup of our Parks and Open Space areas in preparation for the Summer ahead.

Working individually throughout the Parks kept us within the established social distancing guidelines and allowed us to accomplish what had to be done before the burst of Summer growth. Once the construction ban was lifted, we were able to keep on top of our regular maintenance activities and prepare for our upcoming projects due to the more normal Spring weather patterns that we haven't had for a while.

Public Works has already completed our Nova Pave projects for this year along with our chip seal, fog seal and cope seals projects. We have recently received approval from PennDOT for our planned paving projects and have begun the prep work for the upcoming overlays.

As Public Works becomes aware of any changing COVID-related mandates, we will continue to strive to meet all of the Township needs in our day-to-day operations.



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Remember To Recycle

Municipal and State regulations require that residents, commercial establishments and non-residential establishments recycle all recyclable materials. Commonly recycled materials include:

- **Paper** – newspaper, office/copy paper, glossy paper, color paper, cardboard, junk mail, phone books, cereal/cracker boxes
- **Plastic** – bottles and jugs No. 1-7
- **Glass** – clear, green and brown containers
- **Metal** – aluminum, steel, tin, and bimetal cans and containers

You should check with your hauler for a complete list of acceptable recyclable materials.

Are Things Really Being Recycled?

This question often comes up. People are concerned that not all of the materials they put in their recycle bin are recycled. Their concern is that some end up in landfills. This leads some to minimize their recycling efforts. According to several major waste management firms in Montgomery County, all of the acceptable recycled materials listed above are being recycled. You should continue to recycle all of the items listed above.

Things You Should Not Put into Your Recycle Bin

Here is a list of things that cannot be recycled and should not be put into your recycle bin:

- Foam containers and cups, even if they have a recycle symbol on them
- Cups coated with wax or plastic such as soda cups
- Plastic bags such as grocery store bags (You can often take these bags back to the grocery store.)
- Flexible packaging such as chip bags or juice pouches
- Plastic wrap
- Container caps
- Diapers, yes, some people throw soiled diapers into their recycle bins

Avoid Contamination of Recycling Materials with Food or Liquids

Materials contaminated with food or liquid cannot be recycled. Here is what you should do:

- Check that the material is recyclable. Look for the recycle symbol on items
- Rinse jars, bottles, and cans that have visible residue in them. A quick rinse is usually adequate
- Throw away heavily soiled items.





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