

franc talk



Spring 2022

Municipal Building Facelift Is Complete



Stop in and see us! Construction is complete on the renovations to the Township Building. A new lobby, meeting room, restrooms, flooring, ceilings, lighting, and a new audio/visual system have been added. It's the first major renovation to these areas in over 45 years.

Although the construction has presented its challenges, we appreciate your patience. During the construction, we remained open by allowing access to office personnel through other areas of the building so it is nice to have the front doors open again into the beautifully renovated building.

Although the lobby is now open, please remember the "lock box" is still available for dropping off items 24/7. The lock box is located adjacent to the front doors.

The Franconia Township Municipal Building was originally constructed in 1976.

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road
Telford, PA 18969-2205
215-723-1137
www.franconiatownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Grey R. Godshall, Chairman
David B. Fazio, First Vice Chairman
Robert H. Nice, Second Vice Chairman
Dr. Charles Amuso, Supervisor
Jill Halteman, Supervisor

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jon A. Hammer

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration 215-723-6777
Emergency 9-1-1
Michael L. Martin, Chief
Steven Cronin, Administrative Sergeant

BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

215-723-1153
Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works Director



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A Message From Township Manager Jon A. Hammer

With nice weather finally here, I am optimistic that 2022 will bring a newness, a springtime for us all. To help usher in these better times, the Township is in the process of some large-scale projects to better serve the residents.

For the first time in decades, the municipal building on Allentown Road has seen significant improvements, including upgrades to the lobby area, main meeting room and restrooms. New flooring, lighting, doors, and technology improvements, including the addition of big screen video monitors have been added. But that's not all.

This year, we will also be making upgrades to the playground area at Franconia Community Park. New playground equipment will be added, and a rubberized surface installed to allow children of all abilities to play together in a fun and safe environment. And lastly, we are continuing to make improvements to the pond area at Enos B. Godshall Park which will include the removal of dead trees, creating a biodiversity area at the current pond, and increasing areas for picnicking and passive recreation. This improvement is part of the Township's MS4 stormwater upgrades.



And one more improvement is PennDOT has begun construction on the 309 Connector Road which will help alleviate truck traffic and congestion in the Township, creating a direct route to the Pennsylvania Turnpike without using our local roads. More information on this project can be found at www.pa309connector.com.

As most everyone is aware, Franconia Township has amongst the lowest municipal real estate taxes of any municipality in the region with its own police department. We take great pride in providing outstanding basic local government services at a low tax rate, including being recognized as one of the safest communities in the entire state. I would encourage anyone with questions on the Township's financial status to view our financial audit posted on the Township website. By any account, the Township is in a very strong financial position, with very little debt, and we expect to keep taxes low for years to come. However, we do recognize and have prepared well for the economic uncertainties the future holds.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank and congratulate our former Public Works Director Paul Nice on a very successful career. Paul retired in January after more than 50 years with the Township. Paul's fingerprints are everywhere in the Township, from the park system, to trails, to the condition of our roads. No one knows the Township better than Paul. I wish him and his family well and thank him for his service to the Township. Paul will be missed. Tony Frydlewicz has been named our new Public Works Director. Tony was promoted from within the Township, as he was previously the Crew Leader under the Public Works Director.

I wish everyone a great year. Should you have any Township related questions, please feel free to reach out.



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Public Works Director Paul Nice Recognized After Decades Of Service

In January, Paul Nice retired and Franconia Township recognized and honored him for his service as our Public Works Director for more than 50 years. Paul had a very successful career with the Township, and his fingerprints are everywhere from the park system, to trails, to the condition of our roads. No one knows Franconia Township better than Paul! Paul will be missed, and we wish him and his family well and thank him for his years of service, dedication and a job well done.

A familiar face in the Township, Tony Frydlewicz, has been named as our new Public Works Director. Tony has served in the position of Crew Leader since July 2018 and, having been with the Township for a number of years under the mentorship of Paul Nice, he is very familiar with the workings of Franconia Township and is highly qualified to take over the position. We wish Tony well in his new capacity!



Grey Godhall (left), chairman of the Board of Supervisors, presents a congratulatory plaque to Paul Nice in appreciation for his many years of dedication and commitment and for going above and beyond serving Franconia Township.

Franconia Continues To Address Stormwater Runoff

The Township is continuing its efforts to address Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As a reminder, MS4 deals with stormwater runoff of all kinds – from rooftops, to driveways, to roads, and yes, even lawns and farm fields. EPA's concern is two-fold. If rainwater is not able to soak into the ground (impermeable surfaces), then it flows rapidly into streams causing flooding and erosion. The rainwater can also pick up pollutants as it travels over the ground surface.

The Public Works crew has started a project at Enos B. Godshall Park. The goal is to convert the existing pond, which is not much more than a wide spot in the stream, into a bio-retention pond. A bio-retention pond is one that collects rainwater and slowly releases it downstream or allows it to percolate into the soil, thus reducing rapid runoff and allowing the soil to treat some of the pollutants. Along with redesigning the pond, the adjacent areas will receive tree and shrub plantings.



Lock Box Available For Payments

Life is busy as are the schedules we have to keep so for the convenience of our residents, the Township has a lock box for use after hours in making sewer or tax payments as well as dropping off permits or other documentation you might need to provide to the township. The lock box is black and mounted on the left side of the township building next to the entrance doors and is secure and checked daily.



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Prescription Drug Drop-Off Box Available At Police Department

Any residents looking to discard their unused or expired prescription medications are welcome to take them to the Police Department for proper disposal. There is a convenient, secure green container in the station lobby where items can be deposited. The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Sharps or syringes are not considered household hazardous waste and should be disposed of with your regular trash pickup. Sharps should be placed in a puncture-resistant hard plastic or metal container. The container should be sealed and placed in a securely fastened opaque trash bag. It is also recommended to disinfect sharps with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach in a half gallon of water. Please do not recycle sharps. For more information, see Montgomery County's website at <https://www.montcopa.org/2009/Sharps-Syringes>.

When in Doubt, Call!

In the daily grind of life, day or night, you may see or hear something that appears to be out of the ordinary. Despite how insignificant an event may seem, if it piques suspicion, it is worthy of reporting by calling 911. Often crimes are averted or solved because someone made a timely report. Officers are patrolling 24 hours a day, and your call is never a bother.

All calls to the Police Department will be answered. Calls will automatically be answered by Montgomery County 911 dispatchers at night and on weekends and also during business hours if no Franconia Township Police Department Administrative Staff are available. Do not be alarmed if you hear a 911 dispatcher answer the phone. Although we always have police officers on duty, our administrative office is typically open for business Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Non-emergency inquiries, such as general questions, contacting a specific officer/detective, requests for soliciting permits or police records/crash reports should be made by calling the Police Administrative Office at 215-723-6778 during regular business hours.

Police Department Offers Special Needs Registry

Did You Know: The Police Department offers a service to our residents with special needs. Any household that has a person with special needs can complete an In House Special Needs Information Questionnaire which is found under "Forms" for the Police Department on the Township website at www.franconiatownship.org.

Once completed and filed with the police department, the information is kept in a database which can be accessed by officers responding to calls for service at that residence. This allows officers to prepare resources prior to arrival, which will better serve the specific needs of the registrant(s).





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Franconia Prepared To Weather Economic Downturns

Cities and townships across the country are especially susceptible to economic downturns and inflationary pressures. Franconia Township is not immune to these issues.

High oil and gas prices have made fueling public works' trucks and police vehicles more expensive. Paving has become more expensive. And like in your own household, everything on the expenditure side of the ledger is more expensive for local governments. That includes electricity for traffic and streetlights, personnel and pension costs, purchasing of vehicles and computer supplies, etc.

However, despite the reality of these economic challenges, Franconia Township has prepared well by investing and maintaining infrastructure and providing outstanding basic local government services at a reasonable tax rate. That means providing outstanding police protection, maintaining Township roads in both summer and winter conditions, and keeping our park system beautiful for our residents to enjoy.

Although we expect challenges ahead, the Township remains on firm financial footing, with very low debt and strong financial results year after year. We encourage residents to review the Township budget and the Township annual audit, both of which are posted on the website at www.franconiatownship.org. We take great pride in keeping Township finances transparent.

Should you have any questions on the Township budget, feel free to reach out to Township Manager Jon Hammer at admin@franconia-township.org or 215 723 1137.

Sewer Extension To Schoolhouse Road And Kulp Road Finished

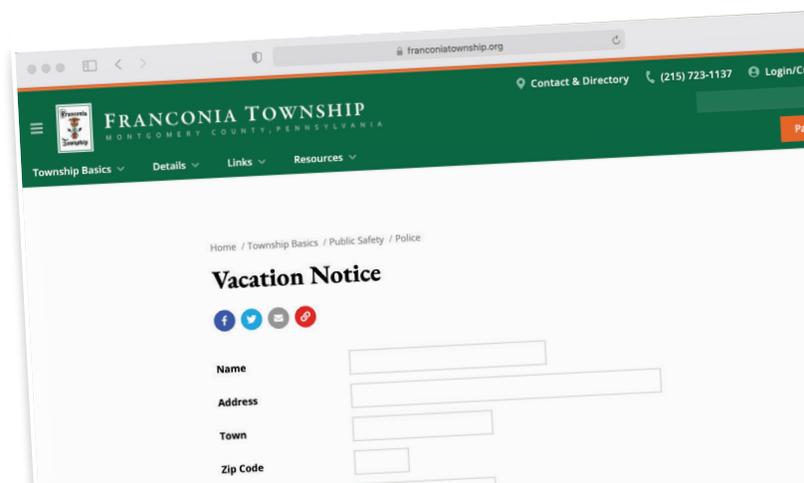
Franconia Sewer Authority has completed its extension of public sewer to residents of Schoolhouse Road and Kulp Road. Property owners have been able to connect since early April.

Our Morwood Project (Phases 1 and 2) is essentially complete. As of this date, 101 property owners have chosen to connect to public sewer in the Morwood area. We are happy that we were able to help these residents and the environment!

Going On Vacation? Let Us Know

Do you have an upcoming vacation planned? The Police Department invites residents to fill out a Vacation Notification Form which can be completed and submitted online.

The notification form is found on the Township website at www.franconiatownship.org by typing vacation notice in the search bar. Having this form completed and on file provides the Police Department with important logistical information about such things as lights on timers, vehicles that will remain in your driveway and any contractors expected at your home while you are away. Providing this form to the Police Department can provide extra peace of mind so you can relax and fully enjoy your vacation.





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Public Works Department Again Busy In Spring

It's another season for spring and summer maintenance for the Township Public Works Department and, to be honest, it's better than snow plowing!

Some have noticed that we have started a project at Enos B. Godshall Park. The goal is to remove all of the old and dead trees and to convert the old fire pond into a beautiful bio-retention area. One of the main reasons for doing this is to help with stormwater runoff from the pond by installing a bio-mix soil, which will help with our MS4 requirements from the state.

Preventative maintenance of our infrastructure is always a high priority for our maintenance crew. In fact, it is priority # 1, and we take great pride in maintaining our infrastructure. Proper drainage is a key factor in producing safer roadways; therefore, a lot of effort is put into controlling and directing stormwater into our grassy swales and storm drainage structures. The importance of doing this is to keep the water away from the sub-base which affects the integrity of our highway system and reduces icing and potholes throughout the winter season.

Pavement preservation is another priority in Franconia Township. We use various types of surface treatments to control oxidation and keep water from penetrating the surface of our roads. Crack sealing and chip sealing are two of the most cost-effective types of preservation on the market, but we have found alternatives depending upon the roads. We are currently using a fog seal on top of our chip seal in more densely populated areas along with a cape seal in some others.

We have been using another newer seal coat process on high volume roadways. This method is an ultra-thin overlay that seal coats the road surface with liquid asphalt and then applies a pave-layed single stone hot mix on top of the asphalt. All of the products mentioned above will be used on the various roads throughout the Township this summer.

PennDOT will be milling and paving Cowpath Road from Route 113 to County Line Road. Franconia Township's public works crew will be milling and paving Middle Park Drive that runs through Banbury development and a section of Halteman Road this year.

We ask that you respect all notices of work that are planned in your area and avoid road closures so we can leave you with a better finished product.

Land Development Update

Approved or Under Construction

- **The Pizza Box** – 402 Morwood Road
- **Peter Becker Community** – 30 Cottages at Pondview
- **Amplifier Research** – Building addition, 160 Schoolhouse Road
- **Alderfer Glass** – 134 Telford Pike, Warehouse and office expansion with associated parking
- **Bayard Estates** – WB Homes, Indian Creek Road, 22 Single Family Homes and 23.6 acres designated for Open Space
- **Belton Manor Estates** – 8 Single Family Homes, Godshall Road
- **Allebach Tract** – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road

Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- **Reserves at Franconia, Pulte Homes** – 42 Single Family Homes & 42 Townhouses Beck Road and Cowpath Road
- **Souderton Mennonite Homes** – Land Development, W Reliance and Colonial Avenue

Rezoning Projects

- **Rezone of parcels along W Reliance Road** – From R-130 to Institutional
- **Neighborhood Overlay District** – To permit mixed residential development. Applied to property along Beck Road and Cowpath Road.
- **Professional Office Overlay District** – To allow professional office use through the Conditional Use process. Applied to parcels along Township Line Road and County Line Road



Franconia Township Events Calendar

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY

WHEN: Saturday, May 21, 2022
7 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

WHERE: J.P. Mascaro & Sons Transfer Station Lower & Wile Roads

Any Franconia resident may dispose of normal household trash at this year's Township Clean-Up Day at the Mascaro Transfer Station at Lower and Wile roads.

Prior registration is required and can be done in person beginning Monday, April 18 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building located at 671 Allentown Road between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Registration is first come, first served and spaces are limited. Normal household trash may include:

- Old appliances and "white goods" (i.e. old dishwasher, washing machine)
- Refrigerators or freezers (only with condenser and coils removed)

Electronics, construction debris, grass clippings, motor oil, tires, paint and hazardous materials and car parts will not be accepted.

YOUTH TENNIS CLINIC

WHEN: June 20-23, 2022 (Rain date: 6/24)
9 a.m.- Noon

WHERE: Franconia Community Park Tennis Courts

The Franconia Parks & Recreation Board will once again be sponsoring a youth tennis clinic this summer. The clinic will be for children 6-12 years old. Skilled instruction will be provided by Monica

Bach. The cost of the clinic is \$100 per person, and all you need to bring along for the clinic is a tennis racket! Please check with the Township Office or the website to get any information or updates on this clinic.



CONCERT IN THE PARK

WHEN: Sunday, August 14, 2022
6 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

The Franconia Parks & Recreation Board is pleased to announce that it will be sponsoring a summer concert this year featuring Mike Guldin & Rollin' & Tumblin'.

They will be performing your favorite blues, rock & roll, soul, roots and Americana hits. North Penn Goodwill Truck and Downtown Scoop will be at the event providing food, drink and ice cream for purchase. So grab a lawn chair and join us on the lawn of Franconia Community Park to enjoy this night of music and family fun!



FALL FESTIVAL

WHEN: Saturday, October 8, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 9, 11a.m. to 6 p.m.

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

Franconia Township Police Benevolent Association & Franconia Township will once again be holding our Fall Festival this year which includes our very

popular fireworks show on Saturday evening. Highlights of the weekend are hay rides, music, food, bouncy houses, hay maze, vendors and a schedule of events and fun activities throughout the weekend. We hope you can join us for this great Fall event!





FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road
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www.franconiatownship.org

Visit The Township Website And Be In The Know

Are you interested in the latest news, events and information for Franconia Township? If you visit the home page of the township website at www.franconiatownship.org and scroll down to "News & Announcements," you will find the most recent information the township has to offer. We invite you to visit the page regularly to be "in the know!"

www.franconiatownship.org

