

franc talk



Fall 2023

A SPECIAL PLACE CALLED FRANCONIA

For many people reading this, Franconia is home. It's where you grew up. Where you raised your children, went to church, school, and met your spouse. It's a special place where your childhood memories were made. For others reading this, you moved to Franconia to make it your home. You were attracted by the vast amounts of preserved green space, the farms, the kind people, and the friendly hello's when you see your neighbors in the grocery store.

Whether your family has lived here for generations or you're new to the area, the one thing we all have in common is we work hard as a community to make Franconia a place we can all be proud of. Unlike other townships, Franconia doesn't measure success by the amount of strip malls we have but by the kindness of the people that live here.

Your Township Board of Supervisors and staff work hard to keep it that way.

The Franconia Township Board of Supervisors is comprised of five members, Chairman, Grey Godshall, Vice Chair David Fazio, Dr. Charles Amuso, Robert Nice, and Jill Halteman. Each board member works hard to preserve the quality of life we enjoy in Franconia, and remains dedicated to preserving open space, keeping taxes low, and our community safe. The Board has a long history of listening to residents and finding common sense solutions. It's through this leadership, and with the support of our residents and dozens of volunteers, that we've been able to create a community that is unlike any other. Here are some tangible examples:

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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
Jerry Rittenhouse, Building
Inspector/Code Enforcement Director

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

215-723-1153
Tony Frydlewic, Public Works Director





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The Board of Supervisors strongly supports public safety and our Police Department. We are proud of the Franconia Township Police, and it is through their efforts that Franconia has been named one of the ten safest communities in the state by the governor. Franconia Police also spearhead 'Fall Fest' each year and organize a number of other community events to help those in need. As an accredited police department, it has been recognized as one of the best in the state. Just recently, Board Chair Grey Godshall and the Police Union signed off on an extension to the police collective bargaining agreement, ensuring outstanding police services for years to come.

The Board of Supervisors also supports the preservation of open space. Few municipalities in the state have preserved more open space than Franconia and the amount of preserved open space continues to grow each year. It just makes sense to provide our children and grandchildren with a beautifully bucolic community which is environmentally friendly and healthy to live in.

Financially strong and fiscally transparent. Franconia enjoys low municipal taxes and is virtually debt free but don't just take our word for it. We encourage anyone who wants to

learn more about Franconia's financial condition to review the annual audit, which is posted online. We strongly believe in providing outstanding local government services at a low tax rate. It's about being fiscally responsible with your tax dollars and showing you exactly where your tax dollars are going. In fact, Franconia's municipal tax millage is more than half of some of our neighboring municipalities. Township Supervisors Dr. Charles Amuso and Robert Nice have led the township's financial team for a number of years now, providing the direction and oversight needed for a community of our size.

In just the past year, Franconia has opened up an inclusive playground at the municipal park, a new racquet center featuring 6 new pickleball courts, 2 new tennis courts, and a new basketball court at Branchwood Park. A new bioretention area with walking trails and picnic area at Enos Godshall Park are being finished.

It's not hard to see why people are proud to call Franconia Home.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW? TAKE THE FRANCONIA FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

Transparency is the cornerstone of responsible local government finance. Franconia Township is committed to keeping residents informed about how funds are being used. To ensure financial accountability for taxpayer money, Franconia does something very unique and not found in other local governments.

Did you know that annual audits from an independent third-party auditing firm are performed and monthly financial reporting is conducted by a different independent auditing firm? Did you know the annual audits are posted on the Township website for anyone to review? This type of financial transparency and auditing ensures taxpayer funds are accurately accounted for.

Did you know that Franconia Township's municipal real estate tax is amongst the lowest in the state for like-sized townships with its own police department? And Franconia

residents pay about half the municipal real estate taxes than residents in many of our neighboring municipalities?

Did you know that Franconia Township has very little debt, with very strong liquidity?

The Board of Supervisors, Township Manager and staff believe in providing outstanding local government services at a reasonable tax rate. Long-time residents know that Franconia takes great pride in maintaining infrastructure - roads, bridges, traffic signals and our park system.

"We are very happy with our financial position and the processes that are put in place to ensure a low tax rate for our residents for years to come," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Grey Godshall.



2023 HAS BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The Franconia Township Public Works Department has experienced a busy year in 2023. The ambitious crew is willing to tackle whatever projects are handed to them, and they have done an excellent job this year in meeting all of their deadlines.

Some of the deadlines the crew had to meet this year were:

- Maintenance of our roadways by performing pavement preservation. The roads that received the double chip/fog process were Colonial Avenue, Oak Drive, High Street, Fairway Drive, Indian Ridge Lane, Alexander Drive, Elmwood Lane, Augusta Drive, and Oakmont Drive. Milling and paving took place on Gerhart Lane, Eisenhower Drive, and Alycia Lane.
- The completion of the new bioretention pond area at Enos Godshall Park. The pond received a new storm pipe and inlets. Stone was thereafter hauled in and wrapped in geotextile fabric. Amended soils were then placed, and topsoil was spread with trees, plants and grass seed ultimately planted to finish the project.
- Branchwood Park received a major facelift this summer with the installation of new blacktop for the playing surface on the basketball court, 2 tennis courts, and the 6 newly added pickleball courts. New fencing, nets, paint and walkways were also installed to complete this much anticipated renovation.

The ongoing care of our park systems in keeping them mowed and clean from trash and debris is always of utmost importance to our Public Works Department. The unforeseen storms that occurred this year kept the crew occupied in performing considerable cleanup from downed trees and branches.

As you drive around the Township, you can see and appreciate the beauty of our parks which is accomplished by the hard work performed by our public works' team.



Branchwood Park basketball court under construction



A new storm inlet is installed at Enos Godshall Park



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NO DOGS ON TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS PLEASE

It has been gratifying in the past few years to see how many people are enjoying the resurfaced and dual-lined tennis and pickleball courts at Franconia Community Park since that work was completed. The playing surface is a specialized surface to be used exclusively for the purpose of playing these sports as divots and gouges can occur if it is not utilized properly.

It has come to our attention that dogs are being taken onto the courts to run around and play. Please help us preserve the life of this surface by abiding by the sign posted on the gate entering the courts indicating "NO ANIMALS ON PLAYING SURFACE" which coincides with the Township Ordinance 417-23 passed on February 21, 2023 updating the rules for park use. Please note under Restrictions listed in the Ordinance under Section 2, 97-4. Prohibitions, it states "Dogs or any other animals on tennis courts."

In addition, it is important to note that pets are prohibited at the park unless properly licensed and restrained by a leash and under an individual's direct control. This regulation is for the enjoyment and safety of all taking advantage of the park's amenities.

Franconia Township takes pride in maintaining and upkeeping our beautiful parks for use and enjoyment by the community. Please join with us in following the guidelines of Ordinance 417-23 to keep Franconia Township's parks a great place to visit.

If you would like to view Ordinance 417-23, it can be found on the township website under Parks & Recreation.



The pickleball courts at Branchwood Park are open

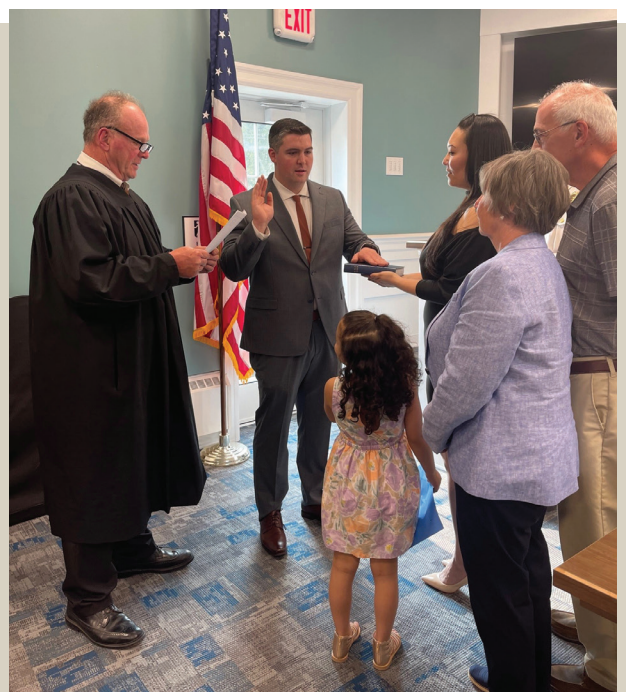
WELCOME TO FRANCONIA'S NEWEST POLICE OFFICER DAVID MATOZZO

During the May 15 Township Board of Supervisors meeting, Officer David Matozzo was sworn into office by the Honorable District Justice Albert J. Augustine.

Before coming to Franconia, Officer Matozzo was employed since 2019 by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff. In addition to his regular duties, Officer Matozzo served as a bomb technician on the county's Bomb Unit.

Officer Matozzo holds a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Widener University and graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy. He is assigned to the patrol division and has already begun field training.

We are excited to welcome Officer David Matozzo and his family to our Franconia Township family!





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FALL AND WINTER REMINDERS THAT HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

Some fall tips that can help our environment are:

- Keeping leaves and yard waste out of our streets and storm drains.
- Aerate your lawn to allow water, air, and nutrients into the ground to help build a healthier lawn.
- Planting trees helps allow water to be absorbed into the ground and helps to prevent stormwater runoff.
- Pruning trees and shrubs can also reduce runoff and gives them a good head start for the growing season in spring.

Prior to an upcoming snow event, property owners are responsible for checking out the durability of their mailboxes. If the mailbox can move when shaken, the mailbox and/or post may not withstand standard snow removal operations.

At this point, the property owner should make the repair or replace it prior to a snowstorm. The other thing to check is the placement of the front of the mailbox. The United States Postal Service states that the mailbox should be placed with the face of the box 6 to 8 inches from the front of the curb. This will prevent a plow from hitting it.

Lastly, to help us out so we can help you out from being plowed in, try to plow or shovel the snow from the end of your driveways to the right side (as you are facing the road). This will decrease the amount of snow plowed back into the driveway.

Thank you for your help and understanding.





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LOCKBOX 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 building next to the entrance doors and is secure and checked daily.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF BOX 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 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 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>.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Approved or Under Construction

- **Peter Becker Community** – 30 Cottages at Pondview
- **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
- **Reserves at Franconia, Pulte Homes** – 42 Single Family Homes & 42 Townhouses Beck Road and Cowpath Road
- **Souderton Borough Public Works Building** – 160 Cherry Lane
- **NCC Automated Systems** – 255 Schoolhouse Road 29,000 square foot warehouse addition as Phase I
- **Hopewell Christian Fellowship** – Detached Pole Building for Youth Center
- **Souderton Mennonite Homes** – Land Development, W. Reliance and Colonial Avenue

Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- **Godshall's Quality Meats** – New Treatment Building
- **Marcho Family LP** – New Freezer and Storage Building 519 Allentown Road

Rezoning Projects

- Rezone of portions of various parcels along Allentown Road and Godshall Road from R-130 to Commercial for Marcho Family L.P.





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MANAGEMENT OF SWIMMING POOL, HOT TUB, AND SPA WATER DISCHARGES

This fact sheet addresses the discharge of water from swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas that are disinfected using chlorine, bromine, or “salt water disinfection,” and that also may contain residual amounts of other treatment chemicals including algaecides. Servicing of a pool, hot tub, or spa often involves discharging all or a portion of the water or backwash water from filters, both of which may contain residual chlorine at levels that could be damaging to the environment. As such, these waters may be considered “polluted” (i.e., “wastewater”), and must be managed to protect public health and to prevent pollution to waters of the commonwealth such as rivers, streams, lakes, and including storm sewers. The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe acceptable methods of managing discharges from swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas to avoid causing pollution. Pool, hot tub, and spa water should not be allowed to directly or indirectly discharge to waters of the commonwealth, including storm sewers.

What substances in pools, hot tubs, or spas could cause pollution?

Chlorine and/or other disinfectants are typically added in sufficient amounts to kill potentially harmful bacteria. These disinfectants also react with other organic matter such as dirt, sweat, skin cells, leaves, and organisms creating potentially harmful disinfection byproducts. Other contaminants are added from the users, such as oil and grease from natural body oils and applied lotions and sunscreens. Chemicals commonly used in maintaining these systems, such as salt, borax, algaecides, phenols, caustic, and acid solutions, can be deadly to fish and other aquatic life. Backwashing of pool filters also contributes accumulated debris. All of these chemicals and materials have the potential to cause pollution and adversely affect public health and waters of the commonwealth.

What are acceptable methods for managing swimming pool, hot tub, and spa waters?

The best approach for managing these wastewaters is disposal into a public sewer system or at a sewage treatment facility, with authorization of the sewer system owner. A permit is generally not necessary to reuse or recycle pool wastewaters, but approval from the owner of a sewer system or sewage treatment facility is typically required. Some municipalities have enacted additional requirements related to discharges from pools. Contact your municipality if you’re unsure whether additional guidelines exist.

What if no public sewer is available?

The wastewater can be drained and allowed to infiltrate into a vegetated area or used for on-site irrigation after these guidelines are met:

1. Shut off the chlorination/chemical feed system if there is one, or stop adding chlorine and chemicals.
2. Shut off the heating system, if there is one.
3. Hold the water in the pool or hot tub to reduce the chlorine level to 0.5 mg/L or less (if applicable), and the temperature to an acceptable level (generally within 10° F of the air temperature).
4. Test frequently – the water may need to be held for 10 days or more depending on the surrounding conditions. Recirculating the water may help to speed up this process.
5. Adjust the pH, if necessary, to between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units.
6. Never drain the pool on a rainy day or if the soil is saturated.

When discharging on-site for infiltration or using the water for irrigation, ensure that:

- The water will not flow into a storm sewer or other water of the commonwealth.
- The water does not run off the property.
- Nuisances such as prolonged ponding, odors, and mosquito breeding conditions are prevented.
- The flow rate is slow enough to allow infiltration and does not cause erosion.
- Solids are captured by attaching a filter bag to the end of the discharge hose, if needed.



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SUMMER CONCERT DRAWS CROWD FOR GREAT MUSIC

August 13 was the perfect evening for Mike Greer & Co. to perform at our summer concert featuring Eagles and Credence Clearwater Revival hits.

We had one of our largest turnouts in years and it was obvious that the crowd enjoyed themselves listening to familiar tunes like “Desperado” and being taken to “Hotel California.”

We hope you can join us for our 2024 summer concert!



www.franconiatownship.org