

franc talk



FRANCONIA 2026, COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

This spring, a new 'tot-lot' playground on the Godshall Road side of the main Municipal Park has begun. This new playground will be accessible with a rubberized surface and all new play equipment, somewhat similar to the playground that was constructed on the other side of the park, but for younger children. This will be the fourth major park upgrade in the past three years in the park system. With this new playground, Franconia will now have some of the most modern, safest, up-to-date play equipment in our region. And although new playgrounds are nice, new parks and playgrounds are really about building communities and providing spaces where our residents can congregate and our children can exercise and play in a beautiful, safe environment.

But parks are just one spoke in the wheel of community building. In Franconia, we firmly believe the preservation of open space and farmland preservation is vital. Each year, we continue to purchase more open space and partner with the state and county on farmland preservation efforts. Franconia has been on the forefront of open space initiatives, having started preserving open space over 25 years ago. We now have thousands of acres of preserved open space. As we all know, Franconia is an extremely desirable place to live, and without open space preservation, developers would look to develop every inch of our beautiful farmland. Although we can't preserve everything, a drive down Morwood Road shows just some of the results of our preservation efforts.

Another spoke in the community building wheel is keeping crime low. Franconia has been recognized as one of the 10 safest like-sized communities in the state, and for good reason. I attribute this to our residents, who care about their community, and our police department who work so closely with our residents and business community. The Police Department runs our annual Fall Fest, Movie Nights, Shop with a Cop and a host of activities throughout the year providing residents access to our police officers in more informal settings. Our Police Department is extremely well equipped and trained, and has been recognized and accredited by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association for over 15 years as a top performing police department.

Low taxes, low debt and complete transparency are another spoke. There are not too many municipalities that post their annual audit on their township website, but we do. Why? Because we strive to be completely transparent with your money. This 70-page annual audit, from a third-party CPA firm details how your money is being spent. And not

continued on page 3

Spring 2026

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Steven Cronin, Administrative
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Jerry Rittenhouse
Tim Meyers

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

215-723-1153
Tony Frydlewicz, Public Works
Director

FRANCONIA 2026, COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

continued from cover

only do we have a CPA firm close our books annually, but we have a separate CPA firm close our books monthly providing an added layer of fiscal oversight. Our financial strategy has allowed us to have amongst the lowest municipal real estate tax rates of like-sized communities in our region AND have very little long-term debt.

I'm not sure how many times I've used the word 'community' in this article, but Franconia truly is a special community (used it again!). There are many other spokes in the wheel, but none bigger than YOU. I'd like to thank each of you, our residents and entire business community for caring about our community and caring about each other. On behalf of the Township Supervisors, Grey Godshall, David Fazio, Robert Nice, Jill Halteman and Dr. Charles Amuso, Thank you!

Jon Hammer

Township Manager

2026 TOWNSHIP ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The following is a list of scheduled road projects for the upcoming season:

- Double Chip and Fog Seal – Harvest Drive, Memory Lane, Colonial Ave. and W. Summit Street
- Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course – Lower Road (from Godshall Road to the intersection of Allentown Road) and Leslie Lane
- Mill and Overlay – Thomas Drive
- Storm Pipe Replacement – Moyer Road (section by Halteman), High Street (section by 382 and 384) and Leslie Lane (section to an outfall structure)
- Park Projects –
 - Branchwood Park – pavilion upgrades and new walking trail;
 - Banbury Development connector trail underneath power lines;
 - Franconia Township Community Park – new playground on Godshall Road side; new water fountain; redo parking lots on Allentown Road side.





A BIG THANK YOU TO PUBLIC WORKS FOR THEIR HARD WORK THIS PAST WINTER

Franconia Township Public Works did an exceptional job with clearing the roads this past winter, and I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude for the outstanding work that was done. I also want to thank all of our residents for their patience and willingness to comply with snow emergencies.

We're heading into spring and looking forward to some nice weather, but some things to keep in mind for next winter ...

Each winter, our Public Works' crews spend long hours clearing snow to keep our streets safe and passable. After a road has been plowed, it is important that residents and businesses do not shovel, blow or push snow back into the roadway.

When snow is placed back into the roadway, it creates several problems.

First, it can form unexpected piles or icy patches that create hazards for drivers, pedestrians and emergency vehicles. Even small amounts of snow can quickly freeze and become dangerous when temperatures drop.

Second, snow pushed into the road forces plow operators to make additional passes to clear areas that were already completed. This slows down operations and takes time away from clearing other streets that may still need attention.

Please help to keep our roads safe by placing snow on lawns, edges of your driveway or other appropriate spaces on your property ... not back into the road. Working together helps crews clear the roads faster and keeps everyone traveling safer.

Tony Frydlewicz
Public Works Director

Thank you!



2025-2026 had a lot of heavy snow ...



But Spring has sprung!!



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Plans are already in place for Franconia Township's Annual Concert in the Park. In 2026, we look forward to hosting Yesterday's Gone, a Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band on Sunday, August 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Downtown Scoop and North Penn Goodwill Food Truck will be with us providing food, drink and ice cream for purchase during the performance. We are looking forward to this much anticipated summer event so plan now on being there!



We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who had the opportunity to attend Franconia Township's Fall Fest 2025! The event was a huge success thanks to you, and we couldn't have asked for nicer weather.

Be sure to mark your calendars now for this year's event on October 3 and 4, 2026. Details about this event will be added to the township website as they become available. We hope to see you there!



If you're dying to have some fun, Franconia Township Police Benevolent Association's 2026 Halloween Drive-In Movie Nights are scheduled for October 9 and 10. Stay tuned for movie details, but you can be sure it's going to be a fang-tastic event to add to your Halloween season!

OFFICER WAYNE PURSELL RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

On December 12, 2025, Officer Wayne Pursell had his last ride into the Franconia Twp. Police Department. Escorted by numerous local brothers and sisters in blue, along with some from the Pocono and Lehigh Valley areas, Wayne arrived to the sounds of the Souderton Area High School Big Red Marching Band. He was also greeted by nearly 100 well-wishers and members of the Harleysville, Perseverance, Tylersport, and Telford Fire Departments.

Officer Wayne Pursell began his law enforcement career as a part-time officer in April of 1996 with the New Britain Borough Police Department in Bucks County.

In April of 1999, he joined the Franconia Township Police Department, where he has proudly served ever since. Between both departments, he has dedicated an incredible 30 years to protecting and supporting the public.

Throughout his career, Officer Pursell received numerous department commendations.

His commitment to training and professional growth has been remarkable. Over the years, he earned nearly 100 training certificates, covering a wide range of policing disciplines.

Officer Pursell was also deeply involved in specialized roles and regional collaborative efforts. He served with distinction on the North Penn DUI Task Force, the Montgomery County Drug Task Force, Bike Patrol, the MIRT (Major Incident Response Team) Team, and contributed to our department's readiness and professionalism as a Taser Instructor.

Officer Wayne Pursell had a career marked with dedication, curiosity, professionalism, teamwork, and a genuine desire to serve. He has upheld the values of this department with honor, and has done so with humor, humility, and heart. We wish Wayne all the best in his well-deserved retirement.



Wayne with wife, Ginger celebrating his last ride and retirement



Township Manager, Jon Hammer presenting Wayne with the township's plaque of appreciation for his years of service to the community

thank you TO THE BUSINESSES

This publication is made available through the generous advertising sponsorship of the businesses listed throughout our newsletter. We wish to encourage your patronage of these establishments; they play a substantial role in the economic vitality of our community.

2025 LT. PATTY SIMONS LAW ENFORCEMENT FOOD DRIVE

Members of the Franconia Township Police Department proudly participated in the Lt. Patty Simons Law Enforcement Food Drive which supports people-in-need throughout Montgomery County. A portion of the total donations received were delivered to the Keystone Opportunity Center for the benefit of families in this community. Our efforts were spearheaded by Officer Ryan Geist with support from Administrative Assistant Susan McKnight. Generous donations poured into collection points at Suspenders Bar & Grill, Indian Valley YMCA, The Franconia Café, Univest Bank, The Pizza Box, Franconia Township Building and Police Department. According to Officer Geist, this was our most successful year ever. The Keystone Opportunity Center thanked us for 994 pounds of food, personal care items, and paper products. We are extremely proud of how our community responds by helping those in need!



Note: The Lt. Patty Simmons Food Drive began in 1995 as the Salvation Army-Law Enforcement Holiday Food Drive. Patty Simons was a Norristown Borough Police Officer who was one of several founding members of the campaign, along with Chief Martin who worked for Upper Merion Twp. Police Department at the time. Patty Simons was Norristown's first female police officer and eventually rose to the rank of Lieutenant. She worked tirelessly each year to ensure the Food Drive was a success. After Lt. Simons succumbed to cancer in 2007, the food drive was renamed in her honor.

SAFETY AND RESPECT: NAVIGATING THE E-BIKE EVOLUTION

By Chief Michael L. Martin

Technology is a wonderful thing, bringing efficiency and convenience to our everyday lives. However, it can also be a double-edged sword. Innovations often move faster than the laws designed to govern them, and "we don't know what we don't know" until these new tools—like drones, AI, and e-bikes become mainstream.

Currently, we are navigating the rapid rise of e-bikes. While "mopeds" have been regulated for years, modern e-bikes are quieter, heavier, and faster than their predecessors. Because of their power and "stealth" mobility, they present unique risks on trails and sidewalks. To keep everyone safe, Pennsylvania law and general safety guidelines include:

- **Weight & Power:** Trail-permissible e-bikes must weigh under 100 lbs. and have a motor no larger than 750 watts.
- **Pedals:** They must be equipped with fully functional, operational pedals.
- **Speed:** E-bikes and similar electric devices must not exceed 15 mph.
- **Safety Gear:** State law requires all riders under age 12 to wear a helmet.

In Franconia Township, we've seen a rise in reckless e-bike use among juveniles, particularly in private communities. Issues with trespassing, property damage, and near misses with pedestrians are growing concerns.

Most of us remember the freedom of riding bikes as kids, and we want that same joy for our children today. However, that freedom comes with the responsibility of being safe and respectful. If you are purchasing an e-bike for your child, please research its weight, power, and speed to ensure it is both legal and appropriate for their age.

We urge parents to speak with their children about responsible riding and the importance of courtesy toward others. We may still be learning the "ins and outs" of high-tech e-bikes, but being respectful is a basic, "low-tech" necessity that keeps our community safe.

Please visit the Franconia Township website for more information and useful links to Pennsylvania e-bike and micromobility resources.

<https://www.franconiatownship.org/resources/news/article/?id=6377>



PA MICROMOBILITY INFORMATION SHEET												
Description	MIN AGE	LICENSE	REGISTRATION	INSURANCE	HELMET	PASSENGER	LIGHTS	MAX CAPABLE SPEED	RIDE ON SIDEWALK	RIDE ON BIKE LANE	POSSIBLE DUI	PA VEHICLE CODE
<p>Electric Scooter</p> <p>Meets the PA Vehicle Code definition of a motor vehicle. It is a device with two in-line wheels, handlebars, a floorboard to stand on, and an electric motor, with or without a seat. Electric scooters cannot be legally operated on public roadways and may be used only on private property.</p>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	§ 102, § 3802, § 1547
<p>Motorized Pedalcycle</p> <p>Meets the PA Vehicle Code definition of both a motor vehicle and a motorized pedalcycle. It has operable pedals, a design speed of no more than 25 mph, and an automatic transmission. If gas-powered, it is equipped with a motor rated at no more than 1.5 brake horsepower and a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters. If electric-powered, it is powered by an electric battery or a battery-pack-powered electric motor.</p>	16	Class C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	25	No	No	Yes	§ 102, § 3523(e), § 3525, § 3802, § 1547
<p>Motor Scooter</p> <p>Defined as a "motor-driven cycle." Motor cannot exceed five brake horsepower.</p>	16	Class M if >50 cc, Class C if <50cc	Yes	Yes	Yes, under 21	Yes	Yes	Up to 5 brake horsepower	No	No	Yes	§ 102, § 3525, § 3802, § 1547, § 1504
<p>Segway</p> <p>Defined as an "electric personal assistive mobility device." It is excluded from the definition of a motor vehicle. It is an electric, self-balancing, two-nontandem-wheeled device. Lighting must be used when operating between sunset and sunrise. A Segway is permitted on sidewalks unless prohibited by a municipality.</p>	-	No	No	No	Yes, under 12	No	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	§ 102, § 3581-3583, § 3703 (c), § 3802, § 1547
<p>E-Bike</p> <p>Defined as a "pedalcycle with electric assist." It weighs less than 100 pounds and has a motor rated at no more than 750 watts (1 brake horsepower). It has operable pedals and is not capable of exceeding 20 mph on a level surface when powered by the motor alone. Lighting must be used when operating between sunset and sunrise.</p>	16	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	20	Yes, not in business district	Yes	Yes	§ 102, § 3514, § 3802, § 1547
<p>Bicycle</p> <p>Defined as a "pedalcycle." Is moved solely by human-powered pedals. Lighting must be used when operating between sunset and sunrise.</p>	-	No	No	No	Yes, under 12	Yes	Yes	-	Yes, not in business district	Yes	Yes	§ 102, § 3501 et seq., § 3802, § 1547

For more information, visit www.pa.gov/penndot.
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2025 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On December 6, 2025, our Police Benevolent Association held its annual Breakfast with Santa at Franconia Elementary School to benefit Shop with a Cop. Every officer in the department contributed to the effort by either working on the event or covering the street. Many of our family members along with our friends from the Souderton Area High School Interact Club supported the day, which catered to approximately 500 hungry guests. It was incredibly fun spending time with so many great people! Of course, Santa was the star of the show, meeting and greeting hundreds of children. Over \$3,000 was raised to support our annual Shop with a Cop Event.



Santa with Interact Student Volunteers



Detectives Glenn Kranich and Eric Fray manning the grills



Officers Ryan Kochersperger and Ryan Geist preparing eggs for scrambling



Families enjoying the Breakfast with Santa Event

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SHOP WITH A COP



December 21, 2025, marked another tremendously successful Franconia Police Benevolent Association Shop with a Cop Day at the Harleysville Walmart. Our most charitable event of the year supported 22 families, selected by the Souderton Area School District's elementary school counselors.

This event was made possible through the incredible generosity of our community partners, including Souderton-Telford Rotary, Souderton Area High School Interact Club, JBS Staff, FFS Staff, Burn Boot Camp – Harleysville, Orthodontic Specialists of Indian Valley, and R&J Farm Market. Thanks to their overwhelming support, each family received \$1,000 for

shopping along with a \$400 Landis Supermarket gift card.

Our officers, along with their families, were joined by officers from the Souderton, Telford, Souderton Area School District Police, Hatfield, and Lower Salford Police Departments to escort the guest families throughout their shopping experience.

The event concluded with a pizza party generously hosted and sponsored by Souderton Pizza & Pasta. Each guest family also received a complete Christmas dinner to take home, courtesy of JBS.

TOWNSHIP ROADS VS. STATE ROADS WITHIN FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

There can sometimes be confusion about which roads within Franconia Township are maintained by the township and which are maintained by the state. This information is intended to help clarify those responsibilities.

Franconia Township consists of township roads, which are maintained by the township's Public Works Department, and state roads which are maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Exceptions to this distinction are traffic signals and snow and ice removal. During winter weather events, PennDOT contracts with the township to plow and treat state roads within the township.

Below is a list of state roads within Franconia Township. Concerns such as potholes, fallen trees and damaged signs on these roads should be reported directly to PennDOT.

State Roads in Franconia Township:

- Allentown Road
- Camp Road
- Cowpath Road (north of Route 113)
- Creamery Road
- Forrest Road
- Harleysville Pike (Route 113)
- Indian Creek Road between Schoolhouse and Mill Roads
- Mill Road
- Morwood Road
- Schoolhouse Road
- Souder Road
- Souderton-Hatfield Pike
- Wambold Road

PennDOT can be reached at 610-275-2368. Residents can also report concerns by completing a form on <https://www.pa.gov/services/pennidot/report-a-roadway-concern> to address a situation.



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A STEP BACK IN TIME AND BACK TO THE FUTURE WITH PUBLIC WORKS

Times have changed and Franconia Township's road work needs have grown significantly in the past 60+ years with the addition of homes, businesses and roads. However, whether in the 1970s or today, our Public Works' crews have been there to keep the township moving, and we're proud to recognize the dedicated teams that have served our community well through the years.

Take a fun look at our Public Works' crews then and now!



Public Works 1970s – L to R – Bill Williams, Danny Hartzel, Ed Kerver, Frank Kerver and Paul Nice



Public Works 2026 – L to R – Chris Esposito, Brent Landis, Jay Koffel, Tony Frydlewicz, Jon Mininger, Chad Martin, Josh Worman and Chris Maciolek

LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Approved or Under Construction

- W Cherry Lane – 5 Single Family Homes
- Crosspoint Baptist Church – Building and Parking Expansion
- Allebach Tract – 10 Single Family Homes, Cowpath Road and Forrest Road
- Reserve 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
- 640 Lower Road – New Warehouse Building
- 315 E Township Line Road – Building Expansion to an Existing Business
- Marcho Family LP – New Freezer and Storage Building 519 Allentown Road
- Godshall's Quality Meats- New Treatment Building
- SASD – West Broad Street Elementary School Expansion
- Hagey Road – Landis Land Development
- 24 Allentown Road – New Warehouse Building
- Peter Becker – Apartment Building

Currently Before the Board of Supervisors

- WB Select at Rising Sun Road – 4 Single Family Homes
- Souderton Mennonite Homes – Derstine Tract on Cowpath Road
- Shoemaker / Virnelson Diesel Services – 302 Leidy Road New Building





FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY



Any Franconia resident may dispose of normal household trash at this year's Township Clean-Up Day at the below location. Prior registration is required and can be done in person beginning Monday, April 13, 2026 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building located at 671 Allentown Road between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Registration is first come, first served and spaces are limited. Normal household trash may include:

- Normal household trash
- Old appliances and "white goods" (i.e. old dishwashers, washing machines, hot water heaters)
- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners & dehumidifiers must have a tag on them showing Freon was drained (HVAC company does this) OR have condenser & coils removed.
- Furniture (sofas, chairs, etc.)
- Patio furniture (including lounge chairs)
- Carpet – cut & rolled into sections for easier unloading (5' max)
- Lawn mowers with gas and/or oil drained and emptied

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

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2026
7:00 AM – 11:45 AM

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

YOUTH TENNIS CAMPS (TWO CAMP OPTIONS)

The Franconia Parks & Recreation Board will be sponsoring two opportunities to attend a youth tennis camp this summer. Skilled instruction will be provided for each age group listed above by Cody Powis. The cost of the clinic is \$140/person (a \$20 discount will be offered for siblings registered to attend, and instructor can assist in placement of siblings to accommodate families), and participants need to bring a tennis racket, water and wear tennis shoes. Please check with the Township Office at 215-723-1137 or www.franconiatownship.org for details.

WHEN: June 15-18, 2026 (Rain date: 6/19)
Ages 7-11, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM
June 15-18, 2026 (Rain date: 6/19)
Ages 12-16, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park Tennis Courts



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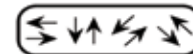
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S	D	G	T	Y	E	C	Q	B	R	E	E	Z	E
S	O	U	D	X	A	B	H	O	S	B	V	R	R
O	B	L	J	T	S	A	U	W	S	G	G	A	V
M	V	M	B	U	T	M	P	D	M	N	R	I	B
V	J	E	D	L	E	J	U	R	Z	X	E	N	H
U	K	Z	M	I	R	G	Z	B	I	C	E	S	S
F	K	W	T	P	Z	K	C	B	O	L	N	V	T



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Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- »»» Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- »»» The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- »»» Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- »»» Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- »»» Never leave your grill unattended.
- »»» Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- »»» There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- »»» If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- »»» Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- »»» There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- »»» When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

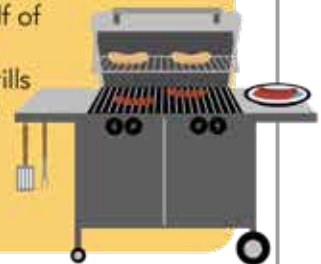
PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ❗ July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ❗ Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



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