

# FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Fall 2007

## Township Open Space Continues to Outpace County Average

The township has recently received approval from the Montgomery County Open Space Board for approximately \$1,055,000 toward the purchase of three parcels totaling nearly 27 acres. 12 plus acres will be added to existing parks at Forrest Meadow (3+ acres) and the Franconia Community Park (8+ acres) and nearly 15 acres will be preserved as farmland along Morwood and Heath roads and defined as a scenic vista.

Approval is pending from the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Board, along with state and township funding, to preserve the 14th farm in the township. This will bring the total of farmland preserved to nearly 650 acres. Two more farms are being considered for the next round of funding in 2008. The township has well exceeded its stated goal of 500 acres when the residents supported a dedicated Earned Income Tax of ¼% toward open space preservation. The township has approximately 12% of the land in Franconia Township preserved either as farmland or public open space (active or passive).

The board of supervisors continue to review recommendations as proposed in the township open space plan that was revised and adopted in 2005. Much credit goes to Supervisor Curtis N. Kratz and the cooperation of life-long residents (farmers) that have supported the township in its efforts to preserved open space by offering development rights and/or acquisition opportunities - in most cases below market and appraisal value. The preserved farms will be identified with signage currently being designed by the county along with township recognition as a partner in the preservation program. 🌹



## Administrative Assistant Hired

Tina Blain joined the Township Administration on June 25, 2007. She was hired as the Administrative Assistant. Her responsibilities will be preparing reports and letters, coordinating bid and contract documents and maintaining township files. Tina has 16 years prior

Municipal/Township work as the Administrative Assistant for West Norriton Township/Municipal Authority.

Tina and her husband Chuck have been married for thirteen years. They have three children, two daughters Danielle and Amanda and one son Eric. Tina and her family reside in East Norriton Township. 🌹

## Clerical Assistant Hired

René Dunlap joined the Franconia Police Department as a part-time clerical assistant on March 21, 2007. She came to the Police Department on a part-time basis to cover the evening hours and to cover Janice Froshour's maternity leave. René comes to us with a strong background in Administrative work and 20 years of Human Resources Management experience. She handles a wide variety of duties including answering incoming calls, providing clerical support to the police officers, data entry of traffic and non-traffic citations and warnings, processing case folders, running reports and general clerical duties.



René was married for 25 years and has two adult children, a daughter 25 and a son 28 years old. She resides in Chalfont, PA. 🌹

## “Put Household Hazardous Waste Where it Belongs”

Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, used motor oil...Improper disposal allows these items to seep into our river and groundwater. So the next time you're spring cleaning or on the move, do the right thing. Instead of in the trash or down the drain, call your local county environmental health agency for disposal guidelines and services.

Small actions make a big difference. It's that easy. 🌹

# Green Region Grant Received for Forrest Meadow Project

Franconia Township will be getting another grant to help with the development of the Forrest Meadow Park located at Fourth Street and Forrest Road. Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager, wrote a grant applying for funds through the PECO Green Region Grant Program. The grant funds can be used to embellish existing open space or to purchase new or additional open space. The application was selected for funding and the township has been awarded \$5,000.00. The funding will be used to purchase trees and shrubbery and to cover other landscaping expenses. The township would like to thank PECO for supporting the Forrest Meadow Park Project. 🌸

**Below representatives from PECO hand the ceremonial grant check to Jamie Worman.**



The 1/2 mile walking trail is being paved at the Forrest Meadow Park.

## Forrest Meadow Park Project Update

The township is making progress with the development of Forrest Meadow Park located on Forrest Road and Fourth Street. As you may have noticed the parking lot and trail are complete. The Franconia Township Public Works Department installed the parking lot and associated stormwater facilities earlier this year. They then began digging the trail in the spring. In early June the trail was paved. Since that time the trail has been receiving heavy use by both walkers and cyclists.

The trail stretches for a half mile around the perimeter of the park along Fourth Street and then weaves back through the wooded area. It continues along the tree line wrapping around the Forrest Road perimeter ending at the parking lot. Trees and shrubbery will be added along the trail and plantings will be installed around the parking lot. The trail also has the option of continuing into the Forrest View Development and entering the interior trail system of that development. You are also able to tie into the sidewalk on Fourth Street from the trail.

The Public Works Department will continue to work on the park site throughout the remainder of this year and into next year. The multi-use field will be located along Fourth Street adjacent to the trail. The field will be seeded this fall in addition to the installation of the playground equipment and pavilion. Representative Godshall was instrumental in obtaining additional grant funding for the proposed pavilion. The development of the park is currently being funded through grants received from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Department of Community and Economic Development. We are very excited about the park and we hope that all the residents will have the opportunity to enjoy the new amenities. 🌸



# Public Sewer Update

The Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) is involved in a number of projects at this time. Following is a review of current projects and their status.

## Earlington/Salford Township

This project is on track and progressing. Salford Township, Telford Borough Authority, and FSA have worked out agreements to allow us to move forward. Paperwork still needs final review and approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), but all items seem to be in place. Providing that all submissions to PADEP meet their approval, construction would likely begin in the spring of 2008.

## Morwood Area

Franconia Township and the Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) would like to thank the residents of the Morwood area for their participation in the public sewer extension process. Alternatives are currently being considered for providing public sewer service to this area of the Township. Affected resident will be informed when more information becomes available – probably toward the end of this year.

## Telford Pike Sewer Line Replacement

A 5000-foot section of sewer line located primarily in Telford Pike (roughly 2500-feet on either side of Cowpath Road) will be removed and completely replaced. This sewer line is over 30 years old and has been identified as a source of inflow/infiltration (I/I). I/I refers to water – other than sewage – that enters the public sewer (rainwater, groundwater, etc.). I/I water burdens the sewer main and treatment plant and can unnecessarily cause treatment costs to be higher. This work is just getting started and should take about six- to eight-weeks to complete.

## Mininger Road and Leslie Lane

Public sewer installation is being completed on Mininger Road. Most residents there can now connect. Leslie Lane sewer installation will commence following final approval from PADEP.

## FSA Treatment Plant on the Skippack Creek

Design work is being finalized for a treatment plant on the Skippack Creek. When completed, the plant will provide public sewer service for the Lower Skippack Basin portion of Franconia Township. This will include the industrial area between Lower and Souder Roads, as well as sewer service for the new High School and area residents. The treatment plant is expected to be operational in March 2009.

## Other Activities

Work has been completed on a sewer extension for residents in the area of Reliance and Cowpath Roads. The FSA plans to extend service to additional customers on Smokepipe, Cowpath, and the area around Reliance and Godshall Roads. Those residents affected have been notified.

The FSA is working to provide public sewer service to residents on Halteman Road near the new High School as well as a small cluster of homes on Schoolhouse Road near the Peter Becker Community. Again, notification was sent to affected residents.

Public sewer is being considered for the area around Forrest and Cowpath Roads. Those affected will be notified as information becomes available.

Following numerous requests a survey was sent to residents in the Godshall, High, and Homestead area of the Township (near Route 113 and Godshall Road). The majority of respondents want public sewer but with all of the other activities currently being handled by the FSA, this project will likely not occur for three to five years. 

# Peace & Good Order Ordinance 99

The Township staff often receives calls pertaining to barking dogs and the operation of loud machines or vehicles during certain hours of the day. Ordinance number 99 speaks to both of these issues. According to the Township code:

**Barking Dogs:** Maintaining dogs which bark so as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort for persons of ordinary sensibility among the neighboring inhabitants shall be deemed to be and shall constitute a nuisance, and the same is hereby declared to be unlawful and prohibited.

**Unnecessary Noise:** It shall be unlawful for the using, operating or permitting to be played, used or operated any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph or other machine or device for the producing or re-producing of sound in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing for the person or persons who are in the room, vehicle or chamber in which such machine or device is operated and who are voluntary listeners thereto. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device between the hours of 11:00PM and 6:00AM (prevailing local time) in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet from the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section. 

# 6th Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park

The 6th Annual Mango Men Concert in the Park was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at the Franconia Community Park. The festive night in the park was a complete success, there was island music, face painting, dancing and food for all to enjoy! There was a tremendous turnout for the event by the township residents. The Franconia Township Park and Recreation Board would like to thank Univest, MOPAC, Hagey Coach & Tours, and Leidy's for sponsoring the concert. They would also like to thank the Mango Men for a terrific performance! 🌺

A good time was had by all!



## Inlet Stenciling

In an effort to comply with regulations set forth in the DEP MS-4 Permit, Franconia Township is looking for inlet stenciling volunteers. The no dumping tiles are required to be affixed to all the inlets throughout the township. The township is searching for volunteers to perform this service. The materials and instructions will be supplied by the township. Please contact Jamie P. Worman at 215-723-1137 if you're interested.

**NOTICE:** Any illicit discharge as defined in the township's stormwater ordinance is a violation of the code, and those who dump will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine. 🌺



## “Rake it... or Leave it!”

**Rake it!** Never rake leaves into or near storm drains, ditches, creeks, or rivers. Decaying leaves use up the water’s oxygen, harming aquatic inhabitants.

**Leave it!** Mulch leaves by running over them with your lawn mower at the next cutting. Leaves and grass clippings are the best fertilizer for your lawn.

Or...rake it and leave it! Rake leaves into a compost pile for a nutrient-rich fertilizer to use on your garden next spring.

**RAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.** It’s that easy. 🌱

## Tennis Clinic

Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board organized a youth tennis program for the first time this summer. The tennis clinic was a pilot program for the Board to assess whether offering summer programs of this nature was something they should pursue. The clinic was held from July 16th to July 19th during the hours of 1:30PM until 5:00PM at the Franconia Community Park. Monica Bach was the professional instructor recruited to administer the program. The Township administrative staff handled the advertising and registration while Monica provided the instruction. The clinic was open to children ages 7-12 for a fee of \$75.00 per student. There were 10 students who participated. The clinic was very successful and the Board hopes to expand this program next summer. 🌱

## Land Development/Subdivisions

The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Abram & Phyllis Godshall Minor Subdivision:**  
*Abram & Phyllis Godshall, 1-lot minor residential subdivision - Camp Road*
- **Albert & Kathleen Yoder Minor Subdivision:**  
*Albert & Kathleen Yoder lot line adjustment - 601 Yoder Road*
- **J.I. Landis Welding & Mechanical:**  
*Jesse & Gina Landis, industrial land development - Hagey Road*
- **Ray Mininger Subdivision:**  
*Ray Mininger, 3-lot residential subdivision - Clemens Road*

The following land developments have received preliminary approval:

- **Donald & Linda Hagey Subdivision:**  
*Donald & Linda Hagey, 3-lot industrial subdivision - Schoolhouse Road*
- **The Weimer Group Land Development:** *Dean Wimmer, Conversion of a residential dwelling to office space - Schoolhouse Road & Route 113*

The Following land developments/subdivisions are currently under review by the Planning Commission:

- **Todd Walker Subdivision:**  
*Todd Walker, 5-lot residential subdivision - Mininger Road*
- **Ken Taggart Subdivision:**  
*Ken Taggart, 6-lot residential subdivision - Cowpath Road*
- **Reformed Baptist Church Subdivision:**  
*Reformed Baptist, 3-lot residential subdivision - Allentown Road*
- **MCC Resource Center Land Development:**  
*Mennonite Foundation, commercial land development - Souder Road*
- **Lincoln Woods Subdivision:**  
*THP, 83-lot single-family residential subdivision - Kulp Road*
- **Guidemark Industrial Subdivision:**  
*Doug & Nancy Dolinar, 5-lot industrial subdivision - Lower Road* 🌱



**Area youths receive instruction at the Township tennis clinic held this past July.**

# West Broad/ Cowpath/Godshall Intersection Plans

The township has submitted the plans for Preliminary approval of the proposed re-alignment and bridge replacement at W. Broad, Cowpath and Godshall roads to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Review and comments are expected by late fall of 2007. The township plans to hold its second and final public open house once Preliminary Approval is received from PennDOT.

Currently the project is listed for federal and state funding and construction is expected to begin in 2009 and will last for approximately 14 to 18 months and includes the removal of the existing box culvert crossing and the installation of a free-span bridge and signalization of the new alignment. Total cost of the project is projected at \$3.1 million.

The township has been responsible for engineering and design and the project has continued to receive strong support from Representative Robert W. Godshall. As part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the normal process can take up to 12 years from beginning to end. With the support of Rep. Godshall and township resources, the project is expected to be completed within 8 years. Plans of the proposed intersection re-alignment are available at the township for review. 🌸

# Lower Road Construction

Construction on Lower Road came to a close on August 17th, 2007. The project overall was very successful. The road work, which began on June 17th, 2007, was scheduled in conjunction with the new high school project currently underway on Lower Road. The construction project included the removal of the old roadway and the installation of water lines, storm drainage, curbing and paving. The roadway was reconstructed to soften the existing curves and the grade of the road was raised to the appropriate height to accommodate the changes. Many residents expressed their appreciation and satisfaction with the project. 🌸



Paul Nice, Public Works Director, oversees the work being done on Lower Road.

**FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP**  
671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128  
Franconia PA 18924  
(215) 723-1137  
[www.franconiatownship.org](http://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) 723-6778  
Emergency 9-1-1 or (215) 723-6777

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*

PRSRKT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Souderton, PA  
Permit #247

**Franconia Township**  
671 Allentown Road  
P.O. Box 128  
Franconia PA 18924

