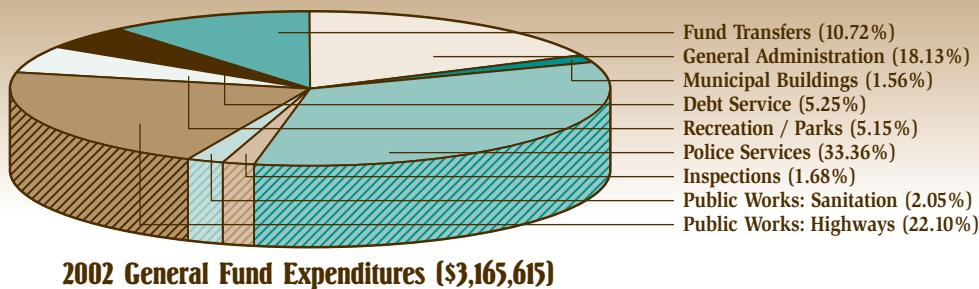
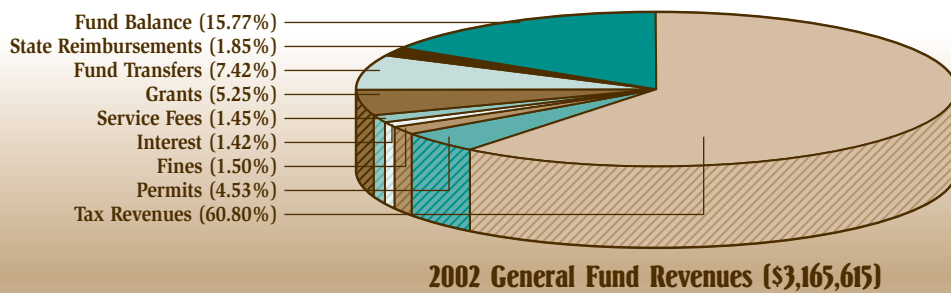


FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • March 2002

2002 Township Budget Approved

The Board of Supervisors voted at their December 10, 2001 Regular meeting to approve a General Fund operating budget of \$3,165,615 for the calendar year 2002. This represents a 5.2% increase over the 2001 general fund budget. The General Fund expenditures are for Township Administration, Highway Department, Police Department, parks and debt service. There was a small millage increase in the library fund of .011 for support to the Indian Valley Library. The overall expenditure budget for Franconia Township during 2002 is \$5,098,127 and represents an increase of 5.4% over the previous year. The complete budget includes funding for fire protection, library support, state and township road maintenance, infrastructure improvements, recreation projects and recycling. A pie chart of the general fund is depicted below. 🌸



Open Space Referendum Passes by Wide Margin

Despite on-going national and international events, Franconia voters proved this past Election Day that home is where the heart is. The Open Space Referendum was approved by a vote of 1215 in favor and 574 opposed to enacting a 1/4% increase of the existing 1% earned income tax. Concern about run-away development, increasing pressure on the school system and the loss of quality of life are some of the main reasons people voted in favor of the referendum. The new Earned Income Tax rate was effective on January 1, 2002.

The Township will use the money to purchase land or conservation easements on land for preservation purposes. It will also use the money to purchase land with recreational value, historical significance or lands that are key to the preservation of natural resources. The Board of Supervisors is committed to preserving our culture, heritage and quality of life that all of the residents currently enjoy. They are planning to preserve approximately 800 acres of land, which will defer the

(cont. on p. 2)

Road Improvements Continue

As traffic continues to put pressure on Township roads, the Board of Supervisors is planning and seeking funds for improvements. The intersection of Lower and Allentown Roads should be completed in the spring, once State winter paving restrictions are lifted. This typically takes place on or about March 15. The intersection will include complete signalization and significant widening. This project was funded by Township funds and a grant from the Commonwealth with support of Representative Robert Godshall.

Engineering and design efforts continue for the proposed Sumneytown Pike / PA 309 Connector project. PennDOT awarded a contract to McCormick Taylor & Associates to formally plan and design a limited access highway to better move traffic from the Lansdale Turnpike Interchange to PA 309. A public meeting held on October 25, 2001 was attended by several hundred residents and concerned citizens. As planning continues, any residents having questions may contact PennDOT through the project website at www.pa309connector.com or the Township office. 🌸

construction of approximately 500 homes. This translates into fewer children in our schools, less traffic on our roads, and increased environmental benefits.

We know that with the new tax, there has been some confusion as to who is required to pay the tax and who is not, and how it is deducted from your paycheck.

If you live in Franconia Township, and work either within or out of the Township, you have to pay the tax, assuming you earn more than \$6000 per year in wages. If you live in Franconia Township and work within Philadelphia and pay the City's wage tax, you do not pay the new tax. Those who work in the Township, but live in another Township or Borough, also do not pay the new tax.

Employers located outside the Township are not required to withhold the tax. You may contact your payroll department directly to have it withheld, or pay the lump sum of the total owed when you file your state and federal taxes for next year.

The goal of preserving the land and our heritage will not be realized overnight, but with the dedicated funds to do so, we can begin the journey.

If you have specific questions about the Earned Income Tax, please call Jim Hunt at Berkheimer Associates, the Township Earned Income Tax Collector at (800) 360-7214.

Congratulations Corner

Franconia Township congratulates Craft-Bilt of Souderton on Hatfield Pike for being named among the top 10 "best places to work" by USGlass, Metal & Glazing. The local company was recognized as one of the top 10 for its safety record, customer base, employees and team-based management.

Franconia Township also offers congratulations to the North Penn Regional Improvement Association for being awarded the Federal Land Use/Transportation Planning Grant in the amount of \$170,000 to evaluate the Route 113 Heritage Corridor and set priorities for preservation and select transportation improvements. The grant was secured through the efforts of Congressmen Hoffel and Greenwood.

Sewer Bill Increase

On December 4, 2001, the Franconia Sewer Authority (FSA) approved its 2002 annual budget for \$1.129 million. The approved budget includes a rate increase of \$5.00 per month to \$35.00. This increases the flat, quarterly rate to \$105 from its current rate of \$90. The increase is the first rate-change for the FSA since 1997 and will be reflected on the May 1, 2002 sewer bill.

During 2001, the FSA was presented with service rate increases from two of its contracted wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The Hatfield Authority increased its rates for service beginning in the third quarter of 2001 by approximately 34%. The Lower Salford Authority increased its rate for service by approximately 4.3% during the second quarter of 2001. These two increases for service and declining interest rates, led to a budget shortfall of \$116,053 for the proposed 2002 FSA budget.

Fixed costs for the FSA such as staff, electric, planned maintenance, and insurance are anticipated to increase by 3.5% during 2002, while most other items in the approved budget remained unchanged or declined from the 2001 budget. With the increase for service from the Hatfield and Lower Salford Authorities, the FSA realized a projected increase of 5.57% in the 2002 budget and nearly a 12% increase for services over the past two years.

The FSA, as a conveyance sanitary sewer system, contracts for WWTP service with 5 municipal authorities, and its costs for WWTP service are directly related to the costs charged by each contracted municipal authority. The FSA is responsible for ensuring that the conveyance system (sanitary sewer lines) is maintained along with the required upkeep of existing pump stations owned by FSA. Annually, the FSA maintenance program includes replacing or fixing lines that cause infiltration and inflow (I & I) problems to help reduce any additional costs for service from the contracted authorities.

KEEP THIS PAYMENT STUB FOR YOUR RECORDS

ACCOUNT NUMBER	DUE DATE
0000	01 01 02
IF LATE PAY	AMOUNT DUE NOW
118.50	105.00

PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT → AMOUNT DUE NOW 105.00

ACCOUNT NUMBER 0000

Sewer Authority
3
own Road
PA 18924

CURRENT	USAGE	DUE DATE	IF LATE PAY
105.00			

ABC Direct
Any Street
P.O. Box 0000
Franconia, PA 18924

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Spring Time is Building Time

With a relatively mild winter, and forecasts for an early spring, the “Honey Do” lists have been drafted, many including the construction of a new fence, deck or patio. To make sure that your home improvement project goes as smoothly as possible, we have some hints for you.

First off, if you are planning on constructing a deck, patio, shed, fence or addition, you need a permit. If you are ever unsure if you need a permit or not for whatever home improvement project you are undertaking, do not hesitate to call us and ask. We will be more than happy to help and guide you through the process, making sure that everything is done in accordance with Township regulations.

Another big home improvement project that will be undertaken in preparation of summer is the construction of pools. Pools, both in-ground and above-ground, require a permit as well. If you do not get a permit and do not construct the pool so that is in compliance with state and local requirements, you run the risk of not being able to have it covered under your insurance policy. Additionally, if you try to sell your home and the buyer’s insurance or mortgage company discovers that the pool was constructed without being in compliance with regulations, the sale of your home could be delayed, and you may be required to foot the bill to bring the pool into compliance.

We know that permits and building code regulations seem like a lot of red tape—especially when all you want to do is sit out on a deck and swim a few laps—but by checking with us first and letting us answer your questions and guide you through the process, there will be less headaches in the long run.

Specific questions regarding permits and building procedures within the Township should be directed to Roger Koffel, Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer at 215-723-1137, or by email at rkoffel@franconia-township.org. 🌸

Franconia Township Welcomes Two New Employees

Stephen Rinker joined the ranks of the Franconia Township Police Department on January 1, 2002, from the Hatfield Township PD, and is looking forward to a long and



Stephen Rinker

rewarding career here. Steve is a graduate of Delaware Valley College with a major in Environmental Science and a minor in Criminal Justice. He is also a 1998 graduate of the Temple University Police Academy, where he received and award for the top score in physical training. Off duty, Steve resides in Lansdale, and enjoys spending time with family and friends. His hobbies run the gamut from weightlifting to reading. He is actively involved in the martial arts and is a blue belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. “I like being active,” said Steve. “The jiu-jitsu keeps me in shape, as well as provides emotional and mental balance.”

The Township welcomed a new receptionist in October when Alisa Marino joined the staff. Over the summer, Alisa and her husband Michael,



Alisa Marino

along with their two dogs Buckley and George, moved to Souderton. A Pennsylvania native who lived the past 6 years in Atlanta, Alisa says that they are happy to be back “home.” In addition to working in the Township, Alisa enjoys meeting the residents and learning about the area. Alisa’s primary duties is assisting people on the phone and at the counter, and supporting the Building Inspector. Additionally, she will be responsible for doing the data entry needed to get the Township’s GIS/GeoPlan System up and running. Both are welcome additions to the Township. 🌸

Recycling Reminder...

Remember that sorting, bagging, and hauling household recyclables out to the curb improve the land, air, water, and finances of Franconia Township. Supervisor and Chairman of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission (NMCRC), Merrill Bergey continues to promote recycling efforts as a practical effort that can make a big difference to the environment and the community. “The residents of Franconia have done a tremendous job over the years of making the NMCRC a success and benefiting the communities participating in the commission,” says Mr. Bergey. Recycling bins are available at the Township office at no cost. You can recycle these materials in Franconia Township through your local trash hauler:

- **Newsprint and other paper** (*bag paper separately from other recyclables*)
- **Number 1 and 2 plastics** (*plastics, aluminum, and glass can be bagged together*)
- **Aluminum**
- **Green, brown, and clear glass bottles**
- **Bi-metallic cans**

Certain types of recyclables may also be taken to the Township drop off area, located at the Public Works building on Indian Creek Road. You can drop off:

- **Cardboard** (*boxes must be opened and flattened*)
- **Green, brown, and clear glass and aluminum cans**

(Please note that plastic and paper are only accepted at curbside and cannot be dropped off at the Public Works building.)

TOPS OFF AND KEEP ‘EM CLEAN!

Before bagging, please wash out your recyclable cans and bottles. Remove tops, even plastic ones, from your recyclables and place them in the regular trash. 🌸

Governor Declares Drought Emergency

With groundwater levels dangerously low in the south-central and eastern regions of the Commonwealth, Gov. Mark Schweiker signed a proclamation on February 12, 2002 declaring a drought emergency for 24 counties and called on Pennsylvanians to conserve water as drought conditions continue to deteriorate. In addition to the 24 counties now in drought-emergency status, seven counties remain in a drought warning, and 31 counties are under a drought watch.

The Governor's proclamation allows state and local agencies to expedite their response to affected communities to ensure continued protection of public health and safety. It allows agencies to hire, purchase and contract without the usual bid requirements. The declaration also allows communities to implement and enforce mandatory water-conservation measures and local drought-emergency plans.

The Governor's proclamation also allows water suppliers, with the approval of the Department of Environmental Protection's Commonwealth Drought Coordinator, to implement local water rationing plans in the event that conditions worsen. For more information contact the township or visit the following website — www.dep.state.pa.us.

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128
Franconia PA 18924
(215) 723-1137
www.franconiatownship.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Grey R. Godshall, *Chairman*
Merrill H. Bergey, *1st Vice Chairman*
Steven P. Barndt, *2nd Vice Chairman*
Drew Darrah
Curtis N. Kratz

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Kevin D. Baver

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Administration (215) 723-6778
Emergency 9-1-1 or (215) 723-6777

Joseph S. Kozeniewski, *Chief*
Jeffrey C. Gower, *Sergeant / Patrol*
David J. Shaner, *D.A.R.E. / School Resource Officer*

BUILDING / PLUMBING INSPECTION
(215) 723-1137
Roger M. Koffel

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
(215) 723-1153
Paul R. Nice, *Superintendent of Highways*

Land Development Pending

The Peter Becker Community in a joint cooperation effort with the North Penn YMCA should be breaking ground during 2002. The Board of Supervisors gave their conditional approval to the construction of a full-service YMCA that will be situated along Maple Avenue. The land development plan is awaiting formal review by PennDot for the proposed intersection improvements at Schoolhouse Road, Maple Avenue and Harleysville Pike (SR 0113). A Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) is required before this project may begin construction.

Changing of the Guard: Franconia Township's New Tax Collector

Bill Mann was elected as the new Township Tax Collector in November 2001. His four-year term started on January 1, 2002, and he has hit the ground running. A past President and CEO of Sparrow Software, Inc. with a strong background in software development, Bill designed a computer program that has automated the tax collection records of the Township.

Bill is responsible for collecting all of the school and Township property taxes and the Occupational Privilege Tax. Bill will continue Mrs. Landis's practice of holding Tax Collection hours at the Souderton Mennonite Home and Peter Becker, in addition to Township Hours, as a convenient service to the Township Senior Citizens.

Bill has been a resident of Franconia Township since 1987, and resides on Keller Creamery Road. He is married to his wife Phyllis, and they have two children, a daughter Alex, and son Victor. They also have a cat, Spud.

Bill plans on having hours at the Township office during the following times for you to pay your taxes: 7 A.M. to 11 A.M. on March 19 & 26. 12 NOON to 7 P.M. on March 28 & 29. 12 NOON to 5 P.M. on March 21 & 22. If you have any questions, you can call him directly at 215-723-2024 or email him at bill_mann34@yahoo.com.

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



PRSRK STD
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Souderton, PA
Permit #247

Franc Talk

Events Calendar

Save the date for the following, fun-filled, recreation events!



Saturday, March 23

Easter Egg Hunt

TIME: 12:30 P.M.

**Franconia Community Park
Allentown Road**

*Sponsored by Asher's Chocolates
& Sovereign Bank*

Come join the Easter Bunny as he hops down the walking trail in Franconia Community Park for the 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your baskets to gather all the eggs you can for prizes and candy!

Saturday, May 4

Fishing Derby

TIME: 7:30 A.M. (Registration begins)

Branchwood Park, Camp Road

For all you junior anglers out there, hang your "gone fishin'" sign up on the door and come join us for a lazy morning of trawling, right on the banks of the Perkiomen Creek. Sponsored by Representative Robert Godshall, the event is open to children 12 and under. Watch for more information coming to your school for this event!

NEW *Wednesday, July 24*

Summer Concert: The Mango Men

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**Franconia Community Park
Allentown Road**

Join us for our first-ever Summer Concert, right here in our park. Admission is free, so you can bring your blankets and chairs and hang out on the lawn for an evening musical entertainment and escape to the Island of Margaritaville, as they perform their popular blend of Jimmy Buffett and related music. Count on a lively evening of sing-alongs, dancing, plus limbo for the kids! Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and on the Township website, www.franconiatownship.org.

Wednesday, August 7

National Night Out

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**Franconia Community Park
Allentown Road**

Learn about crime prevention while getting an inside peak at the equipment the Fire and Police Departments use to protect and serve. There will be handouts, free hot dogs and gifts for the kids! Come meet your neighbors and the Franconia Township Police.

NEW *Saturday, October 19*

Fall Foliage Tour

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

**Franconia Community Park
Allentown Road**

Join us for a day of fall fun! Games, food and entertainment for kids of all ages!

Think you have to take a trip to Vermont to see the fall foliage? Join us for a hay wagon ride through the Township to witness the splendor of earth's fiery display. Registration for the hay wagon ride will be required. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and on our website www.franconiatownship.org.



Franconia Township residents are invited to the following events, held by local organizations. They are fun, interesting and educational for everyone!

Saturday, April 6

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Annual Stream Clean-Up

TIME: 8:00 A.M. — NOON

Join the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy as they help preserve one of the areas greatest natural resources, the Perkiomen Creek. Learn why stream preservation is important to a balanced environment, and help get the creek in shape for the summer's grueling weather. For more information, call Alix Wisser of the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy at 610-287-9383 or email her at pwc@pvwatershed.org. Great volunteer opportunity for groups.

Saturday, April 6

Montgomery County's 2002 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

TIME: 9:00 A.M. — 3:00 P.M.

Green Lane Park

Green Lane Road (off Rt. 29), Deep Creek Lake Tennis Court Parking Lot

Please bring the following items to collection sites for safe disposal: Automotive Products—motor oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze, gasoline, kerosene. Household Products—drain & oven cleaners, spot remover, dry cleaning fluid, rug cleaner. Paint Products—paint thinner or turpentine, paint remover, OIL based paint (do not bring latex), furniture stripper and refinishers. Miscellaneous—dyes, lighter fluid, photographic chemicals, concrete or asphalt sealers, swimming pool cleaners.

To package any of the above materials for safe transport follow these simple steps:

- 1) Keep all products in original containers with labels intact.
- 2) Wrap leaking containers in newspaper and place in plastic bag or garbage container. Make sure all lids and caps are tight.

- 3) Place items securely in a box for transport. Use newspaper or cardboard as filler.
- 4) Do not leave material in hot, unventilated are for long periods of time.
- 5) Do not smoke near chemicals.

Saturday, April 27

Earth Day: Land, Water & You

TIME: 10:00 A.M. — 3:00 P.M.

**Brownstone Barn Headquarters
1 Skippack Pike, Schwenksville**

Come enjoy entertainment, food, games, and activities while you learn about the importance of protecting the earth and our role in balancing our natural resources. For more information, contact the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy at 610-287-9383 or check out their website at www.pvwatershed.org.

Saturday, June 22

Montgomery County's 2002 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

TIME: 9:00 A.M. — 3:00 P.M.

Fort Washington Expo Center

All of the items as listed above for Saturday, April 6 will be collected this date also. Please follow the proper transport instructions.

Montgomery County Health Department Rabies Clinics

The Health Department will be offering low-cost rabies vaccination clinics to county residents at the following locations. All animals must be leashed or in an approved carrier. Call the Montgomery County Health Department at 610-278-5117 for more information.

Saturday, June 1

TIME: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Abington Recycling Center
Florey Lane (off Easton Rd.), Abington**

Saturday, June 8

TIME: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Collegetown Community Park
4th & Park Avenue, Collegetown**

Saturday, June 15

TIME: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Salford Township Building
Roth Park Pavilion, Alumni Avenue
(off Main Street), Harleysville**

Saturday, June 22

TIME: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Burnside Oakland Park
Burnside Avenue & Oakland Road
Norristown**

Saturday, June 29

TIME: 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Pottstown Roller Mills
625 Industrial Ave., Pottstown**

Saturday, May 11

Franconia Township Clean-Up Day

TIME: 7:00 A.M. — NOON

**J.P. Mascaro and Sons, Inc.
Transfer Station**

Lower & Wile Roads

Free to Franconia Township residents age 18 and over. Normal household trash may be deposited at the J. P. Mascaro and Sons, Inc. Transfer Station. Prior registration is required in person at the Franconia Township Municipal Office during normal business hours — 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. — Monday through Friday. For more information contact Eileen R. White, Administrative Assistant, at 215-723-1137 or at ewhite@franconia-township.org.

