

FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Spring 2006

Chairman Selected by the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Steven P. Barndt was re-elected Chairman of the Board at their annual organizational meeting on January 3, 2006. Grey R. Godshall was re-elected 1st Vice-Chairman and W. Keith Freed was re-elected 2nd Vice-Chairman with Supervisors Drew Darrah and Curtis N. Kratz completing the board's composition. 🌹

Public Restrooms/Concession Stands

As many of you may have noticed over the fall and winter months, there is a new addition to Franconia Community Park. The Franconia Park & Recreation Committee is proud to present the new public restroom and concession stand. The facility is located in close proximity to the hockey rink, soccer fields, football field, and tennis courts. The project has been very successful thanks to the cooperation of many local contractors, the public works department, the board of supervisors, and the park and recreation committee. Richard Kapusta donated the design of the building and Paul Nice, Public Works Director, contracted some of the work out to local builders while also having his own crew help complete much of the project. Jamie Worman, the Assistant Township Manager completed a grant application from the Department of Economic Development and with the help of Representative Robert Godshall, was able to obtain a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 to go toward the restroom project. The combination of hard work, community cooperation, and proper planning has paid

New Finance Officer David Bernhauser

David Bernhauser joined the township administration on August 22, 2005. He was hired as the township's Finance Officer. His primary duties will be handling the townships bank accounts, investments, payables, payroll, and financial reporting. He has an MBA from

La Salle University in Finance and BA from Temple University in Accounting. Over the past ten years he has worked in the accounting departments of Aetna (Blue Bell), Minolta (Horsham), Integrated Project Solutions (Lafayette Hill) and Prudential Insurance (Dresher).

Dave has been married for four years to his wife Danielle and has a little girl, Rylee. Dave has lived in the general area for his entire life, growing up in Hatfield, graduating from Lansdale Catholic High School, and currently residing in Montgomery Township. He looks forward to making Franconia his new residence this fall. 🌹

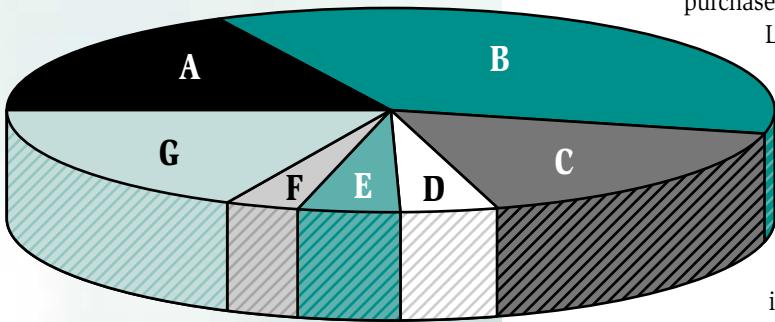


off as the finishing touches are being added to the facility at this time. The restroom and

concession stand is expected to be operational by late spring or early summer. 🌹

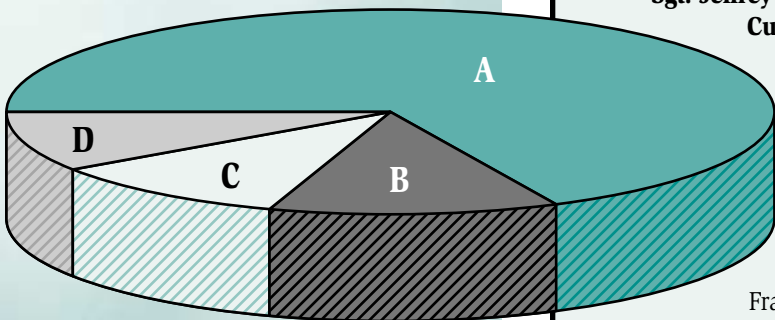
2006 Township Budget Approval - General Purpose Millage Rate Set at .646

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$4.77 million 2006 General Fund budget without any change to the current .646 millage rate for general purposes. The millage rate for fire (.102) and library (.165) support remained unchanged maintaining the township 2006 millage rate at .913.



Expenses are allocated to the following departments:

- A) Administration: \$787,900
- B) Police/Fire Protection: \$1,616,207
- C) Public Works: \$750,532
- D) Code Enforcement: \$181,450
- E) Recreation: \$190,875
- F) Debt Service: \$137,645
- G) Interfund Transfers: \$811,915



Revenue is from the following sources:

- A) Taxes (Real Estate, EMST, EIT): \$3,243,140
- B) Intergovernmental Revenue: \$578,882
- C) General Government Fees: \$498,350
- D) Operating Transfers: \$454,052

Open Space Efforts Showing Success

The Board of Supervisors continues to realize success in their effort to preserve Franconia Township's farming heritage and open space. In 2005 the township participated in funding to permanently preserve two more farms, the Franklin Frederick and Sara Gehman farm and the James and Vernon Rittenhouse farm. The Frederick farm is located at 778 Morwood Road and consists of 29.51 +/- acres. The Rittenhouse farm is located at 731 Allentown Road and consists of 59.30 +/- acres. In 2005 the township also purchased the Greaser Tract located on Forrest Road across from the Forrest Meadow Park. The property had come in for development but after meeting with the owners to discuss other possibilities for the tract the township was able to purchase the 16.16 acres with their own open space funds. Additionally, the township secured 6+ acres from the Leidy Family. The land will be known as Leidy's Woods and will act as a pocket park along the liberty bell trail. The township participated in joint funding with the Montgomery County Open Space Board in accordance with the township's open space plan to purchase the land from the

Leidy's. The efforts to preserve open space are ongoing in the township and we anticipate that more land will be secured in 2006.



Franconia Township 275th Anniversary

2006 marks the 275th anniversary of Franconia Township. The township has compiled a committee to help plan the festivities to honor this milestone. The ten member board consists of the following people:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Jamie Worman - Assistant Township Manager | Vicki Freed - Resident |
| Paul Nice - Public Works Director | Harold Nice - Resident |
| Sgt. Jeffrey Gower - Police Department | Doug Killough - Park & Recreation Committee |
| Curtis Kratz - Supervisor | Brad Carroll/Nancy West-Shelly - Park & Recreation Committee |
| Jerry Delong - Planning Commission Chairman | Nevin Moyer - Resident |

The board met for the first time on February 15th, 2006 and again on February 23, 2006 to begin discussing plans to celebrate the anniversary. The committee used this initial meeting as a brainstorming session. They were able to come up with a few possible ideas such as organizing a community day at the Franconia Community Park complete with a fireworks display, organizing a township dinner with slide show presentation, and coordinating a historical artifacts display at each local church. At the March 16th, 2006 meeting the committee confirmed that they will hold a celebration kick-off breakfast at the Franconia Heritage with a church tour following the breakfast. The breakfast and church tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2006. The Community Day and fireworks will be held on Saturday, September 23rd, 2006. The committee is still working on securing a date for the closing dinner and they are still considering the possibility of a parade. Additional details will be forthcoming. If anyone is interested in participating they should contact Jamie Worman at Franconia Township, 215-723-1137.

A RECYCLING REMINDER



FROM THE NORTHERN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
RECYCLING COMMISSION

What & How to Recycle

Aluminum, Steel & Bimetal Cans

All metal food, beverage and aerosol cans are recyclable. All other metal items such as, pots and pans, wire hangers are not recyclable. No lids or covers, just cans. Rinse out and crush aluminum cans if possible.

Glass – Clear, Amber and Green Glass

All glass food, beverage bottles and jars are recyclable.
No lids or covers

Plastics Number 1 & 2 (HDPE & PETE)

Look for the number in the triangle on the bottom of plastic items. No lids, rinse out containers.

Newspapers, Magazines & Junk Mail

Tie in a bundle or place in a paper bag (Not in Plastic Bags)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Lawn Care Without Toxic Chemicals

From the "Conservation and You" newsletter published by the Southeast PA Association of Conservation Districts, Spring 2005:

The "perfect" lawn – consistently green and weed-free – is sought by most homeowners. It is estimated that U.S. homeowners spend \$1.5 billion a year to apply millions of pounds of pesticides and fertilizers to try to keep their lawns green. However, homeowners tend to use up to 10 times more chemicals per acre than farmers. The perfect lawn does not come naturally, and in our zest to achieve it, we are contributing significantly to the pollution of our streams, waterways and valuable ground water resources.

Water quality is everyone's concern and everyone's responsibility. Here are some tips for achieving a nice lawn without using polluting chemicals:

MONITOR THE LAWN: Identify problems — sufficient sunlight and air? Trees may need pruning. Disease (dollar spot, slime mold, etc.)? Pests (chinch bugs, grubs, beetles, etc.)? Weeds (chick weed, dandelions, etc.)? Treat problem areas only and use alternative controls specific to the problem.

MOWING: Keep mower blade sharpened. Set mower for 3" cut; taller grass shades roots and chokes out weeds. Leave clipping on lawn to provide nitrogen.


TEST SOIL: Test soil for fertility and pH every three to five years. Adjust pH to 6.5 to 7.0 for bent grass and fescue; bluegrass, rye and Bermuda grasses need 7.0 to 8.0 pH.

PLANT PROPER VARIETIES OF GRASSES: Choose grasses for your soil and light conditions. To establish a strong turf, overseed in spring and fall.


REDUCE WEEDS: Identify weeds and determine your tolerance level. Hand dig or use non-toxic target-specific spot spray. A solution of 50% white vinegar and 50% water kills weeds at curbside, on sidewalks and driveways.

WATERING: Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep root growth. Sloped lawns and sandy soils need more frequent watering. Water early in the morning.

LAWN SERVICES: Ask that they avoid chemicals entirely. Get a written contract specifying what materials the service will use. Reserve the privilege to cancel use of any chemical product. Do not let them treat problems that are not there.

"When topsoil is washed away, it is gone virtually forever: it takes almost 1,000 years for 1 inch of topsoil to form." ~ THE WORLD TODAY 

West Broad/Cowpath/Godshall Roads Intersection Realignment

The steering committee that has been busy planning a proposed realignment of the intersection located at W. Broad / Cowpath / Godshall roads since 2002 has been making progress over the past year. On January 21, 2005 the project received cultural resource clearance from PennDot, as well as, archaeology clearance. The safety review package was submitted to PennDot in August of 2005 and a re-submittal was completed in October of 2005. The issues presented with the safety design of the intersection dealt with the roadway plans, design criteria report and the design exception request. There was also concern about the detour plans. The comments in general were minor and were not cause for any design changes. The engineering firm, Carroll Engineers, is currently finalizing right of way details with PennDot and is looking for preliminary plan approval in early 2006. Once they receive preliminary plan approval they will begin the final plan design. The project is assigned to the Commonwealth's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that supports highway projects through local, state and federal funding. 

EventsCalendar

Saturday, April 8, 2006

Cure P.D. 5K Run

**WHEN: 7:00AM Registration
8:30AM Race Begins**

**WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Starting Point & Registration)**

Karen Pellak and her family will be holding the 3rd Cure P.D. 5K Run at Franconia Community Park. The details of the run have not yet been decided and will be forthcoming. However, the date is set for the 2nd Saturday in April.

Saturday, April 8, 2006

Easter Egg Hunt

WHEN: 11:00AM

**WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Rain Date: Saturday, April 15, 2006)**

Come join the fun finding Easter eggs! The 15th Annual Easter Egg hunt will be held on Saturday April 8th at the Franconia Community Park. The egg hunt is opened to children pre-school to first grade; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Remember to bring a basket to collect the eggs and treats!

Saturday, April 15, 2006

S.A.V.E.'s Recycling Day & Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste & Computer Collection

WHEN: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

**WHERE: Indian Valley Middle School
130 Maple Avenue
Harleysville PA 19438**

Household waste can harm the environment when not disposed of properly. Montgomery County will be holding its annual household hazardous waste collection day where you can safely dispose the hazardous materials your household may acquire. Acceptable items include:

- Auto Products
- Household cleaners
- Paint products (oil based only)
- Pool cleaners
- Lighter fluid
- Old computers & printers
- Textiles
- Paper (all types)
- Cardboard
- Scrap metal
- Aluminum cans
- Ink cartridges
- Cell phones

• Tires (fee \$3 or \$4 w/rims)

*Please bring the products in their original containers, keeping all lids tight. Wrap leaky containers in newspaper and a plastic bag. No latex or propane tanks. For more information please call SAVE 215-723-4989 or Montgomery County: 610-278-3618 or visit this website www.wsaemc.org and click on the recycling and HHW links.

April - May 6, 2006

NPWA Hydrant Flushing

WHEN: 8:00PM - 4:00AM

**WHERE: Throughout
Franconia Township**

Throughout Franconia Township annual inspections and flushing of fire hydrants increase public safety by ensuring that hydrants will function when necessary. Flushing of hydrants also improves water quality. Flushing will be done at night between the hours of 8:00PM and 4:00AM. As a result of this procedure, some customers may notice a minor discoloration in the water and/or lower than normal water pressure. If discoloration occurs, run the cold water for a few minutes. If the water does not clear up, turn off the water for 10 to 20 minutes and try the procedure again. If problems persist, customers should contact the Authority office at 215-855-3617, between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM.

Saturday, May 6, 2006

Fishing Derby

WHEN: 9:00AM - 11:30AM

**WHERE: Branchwood Park
Camp Rd. (Morwood, PA)**

State Representative Robert W. Godshall and the Franconia Park & Recreation Commission will be sponsoring the 15th Annual Youth Fishing Derby this spring. All youths up to age 12 may come out and join the fishing contest. There will be refreshments and prizes!

Monday - Friday, May 8-12, 2006

Montgomery County Senior Games

WHEN: Various

WHERE: Various

The 21st annual senior games will be held the week of May 8th to the 12th. Events will be held throughout the week at various locations in Montgomery County, culminating with an awards

luncheon on Friday, May 12th, 2006.

Any Montgomery County resident 50 years or older is eligible to participate. For more information or a schedule and registration packet (available in March), please call Upper Dublin Parks and Recreation Department at 215-643-1600 ext. 3443 or by email PRCSR@upperdublin.net.

Saturday, May 20, 2006

Franconia Township Clean-Up Day

WHEN: 7:00AM - 12:00NOON

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

Franconia Township has designated Saturday, May 20th, 2006 as Clean Up Day. Any Franconia resident may dispose of normal household trash at the J.P. Mascaro and Sons Inc. Transfer Station located on Lower and Wile Roads. Prior registration is required and can be done beginning May 1st in person at the Franconia Township Municipal Building located at 671 Allentown Road between the hours of 8:00AM to 4:30PM. Registration is first come first served and spaces will be 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)

Construction debris, grass clippings, motor oil, tires, paint and hazardous materials and car parts will not be accepted!

Saturday, June 17, 2006

Montgomery County Health Department - Rabies Clinic

WHEN: 9:00AM - 11:00AM

**WHERE: Roth Park Pavilion
(across from Senior Center)
312 Alumni Ave., Harleysville**

The health department is offering a rabies clinic for all dogs, cats and ferrets. The cost is \$8.00 a shot and it is good for 3 years. All animals must be on a leash.

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mango Men

WHEN: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

**WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Alternate Location: In the event of inclement weather the concert will be**

Land Development/Subdivisions


The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Moyer Property Subdivision:** Kane Core Inc. is approved to create a residential development consisting of 6 single-family dwellings - Moyer Road
- **Souderton Area New High School:** Souderton Area School District is approved to create a new high school building & campus - Lower Road
- **Penn View Tract:** Telvil Corporation is approved to create a residential development consisting of 18 single-family dwellings - Reliance Road
- **Curtis & Phyllis Landes Minor Subdivision:** Curtis & Phyllis Landes, 2-lot subdivision - Allentown Road
- **Michael & Michelle Serratore:** 2-lot minor subdivision - 132 Church Road
- **Elizabeth Kraybill:** 2-lot minor subdivision - 138 Cowpath Road
- **Joseph & Patricia Dille:** 1-lot Reverse subdivision - 628 Cowpath Road
- **Handley Tract Subdivision:** 2-lot minor subdivision - 658 Halteman Road
- **Godshall Quality Meats:** is approved to expand their existing industrial building by adding a warehouse - 675 Mill Road
- **Belmont Estates Phase 2:** T.H. Properties is approved to create a residential development consisting of 20 single-family dwellings - Bergey Road
- **Allebach Tract:** Karen Parry is approved to create a residential development consisting of 8 single-family lots - Morwood Road

The following land developments have received preliminary approval:

- **Maloni Street Investors Subdivision:** Maloni Street Investors, 9-lot single-family dwellings - Yoder Road & Indian Creek Road
- **U.S. Stone Land Development:** John Bragitikos, commercial building for the wholesale and storage of natural stone - Forman Road


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

- **Hendricks Property Subdivision:** Wilbur & Rebecca Hendricks, 8-lot subdivision - Godshall Road
- **Reinford Subdivision:** Clarence Reinford, 8-lot subdivision - Godshall Road
- **Windy Heights Subdivision:** William Mann, 5-lot subdivision - Keller Creamery Road
- **Todd Walker Subdivision:** Todd Walker, 5-lot subdivision - Mininger Road
- **Donald & Linda Hagey Subdivision:** Donald & Linda Hagey, 3-lot subdivision - Schoolhouse Road
- **Smokepipe Road Minor Subdivision:** Robert & Mary Alderfer, 2-lot subdivision - Smokepipe Road 

Road Projects: 2006

Road closures and detours in the Franconia Township scheduled for 2006:

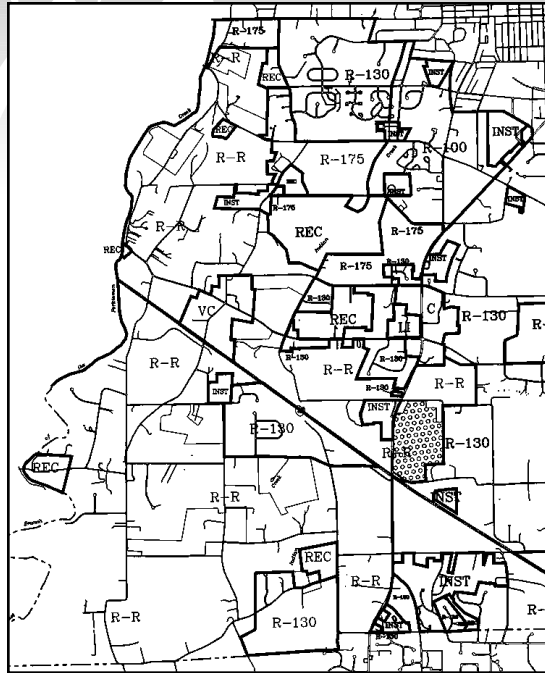
- **Reliance Road between Cowpath & Godshall Road:** Will be closed and detoured for the sanitary sewer line installation for the Penn View Tract Land Development Project & the extension of sanitary lines on Cowpath Road north of Reliance.
- **Mininger Road between Cowpath & Elroy Road:** Will be closed and detoured for some time as a part of the Westport Farms project. This will include the extension of sanitary sewer lines, storm drainage, curbing and road widening.
- **Godshall Road between 113 and Indian Creek Road:** Will be milled where necessary and the entire roadway will be overlaid.
- **Banbury Development:** Will be microsurfacing the remaining portion of the Banbury Development.
- **Forest View Development, Mifflin Street, Darrah's Way, Rising Sun Road and Landis Road:** Will be chipsealed.

Routine maintenance will be performed on all roadways within the township. 

IVRP Update

In May of 2005 Franconia Township's Board of Supervisors adopted the Indian Valley Regional Plan. In doing so they entered into a regional planning commission made up of six municipalities. Franconia Township, Lower Salford Township, Upper Salford Township, Salford Township, Souderton Borough, and Telford Borough make up the six municipalities within this region. The regional comprehensive plan was developed to encourage responsible development that respects the valley's sensitive environmental features and rural character, enhance the historical quality of the boroughs and villages, efficiently use public infrastructure, and strengthen a regional tax base by creating new employment opportunities.

In conjunction with the adoption of the regional plan, each municipality has two years to bring their individual zoning ordinances and land development/subdivision ordinances into compliance so that they are consistent with the regional plan. In January 2005 Franconia Township hired a land planner to help with this monumental task. In addition to hiring a land planner, they also created a zoning ordinance committee. The committee reviews the ordinances and offers suggestions and direction



to the land planner. Over the past year there has been significant progress in bringing the current codes into compliance. One of the major items in this regard, was the creation of the Rural Resource Zoning District (RR). This rezone of the township was designed to preserve the rural atmosphere of the Township, to lessen congestion on the roads and highways, to prevent overcrowding of the land, to provide adequate light and air, and to encourage the most appropriate use of the land in the Township. A map of the rezoned area is above. Specific information regarding the zoning district requirements can be found on the township's website, www.franconiatownship.org.

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP
 671 Allentown Road, P.O. Box 128
 Franconia PA 18924
 (215) 723-1137
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*
 Gerry Rittenhouse, *Building Inspector*
/Code Enforcement Officer

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
 (215) 723-1153
 Paul R. Nice, *Public Works Director*

In addition to the rezone, there was a modification of flag lots in the township. Dimensional requirements were doubled for flag lots throughout the entire township. There was also the removal of the shopping center and office campus overlay districts, as well as, a modification to the institutional district which revised the definition of public and private schools within the institutional zone. Over the next year the township is going to continue to amend the zoning and land development/subdivision ordinances in conjunction with the regional plan. They anticipate that the code will be in full compliance by early 2007. 🌿

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

