

FrancTalk

Newsletter of Franconia Township • Spring 2005

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, 2005. 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. 🌹

Board of Supervisors Hire Planning Consultant for IVRPC

In November 2004, the BOS approved the hiring of a professional land planner, Joseph A. Zadlo, to assist the township to revise its zoning and mapping to comply with the Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission (IVRPC) recommendations that are planned to be implemented during 2005.

A Zoning Ordinance Committee was appointed on January 3, 2005 to review the proposed IVRPC land use and mapping recommendations and to draft zoning changes and definitions that will be reviewed by the Planning Commission, BOS and the public. The BOS will have two years to bring the township zoning ordinances into compliance with the IVRPC once the Implementation Agreement is executed.

Public hearings are expected to begin in May 2005 regarding the proposed IVRPC land use and mapping recommendations. A draft of the plan is available for public inspection during normal business hours (8:00AM to 4:30PM) at the township offices. 🌹

New Employee



Janice Froshour joined the police department September 20th, 2004. She was hired to take on the responsibilities of office and administrative management at the new police station. Her position encompasses a wide variety of duties including taking both emergency and non-emergency calls from residents needing assistance, directing officers to the citizens in need, managing incident paperwork, and compiling statistical information. She brings with her a Bachelor of Sciences in Criminology and Sociology from the University of Florida along with her Florida Police Officer Certification. Janice has gained extensive experience working and interning with the Gainesville Police Department, Santa Fe Police Department, and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau. She also is currently a volunteer firefighter with Telford Volunteer Fire Company, and works as an Emergency Telecommunicator for the Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services. Janice recently moved to the Telford area from Florida and lives with her husband Shaun, and their new beautiful baby girl Breanna. 🌹

What's New With the Park & Recreation Board?

The park and recreation board have a few projects planned for 2005. They are currently looking to place signs at the Franconia Community Park at both the Allentown and Godshall Road entrances. The signs will contain a message board where the committee will be able to advertise township park events such as the Mango Men Concert. The signs will also allow them to get the information out when events have been canceled due to inclement weather. The board is currently reviewing cost estimates and designs for the park signs. In addition to park signs, public restrooms are also being reviewed. The board would like to construct a public restroom at the Franconia Community Park. The restroom would be located in close proximity to the athletic fields closer to the Godshall Road side of the park. Designs are not yet completed but have been discussed.

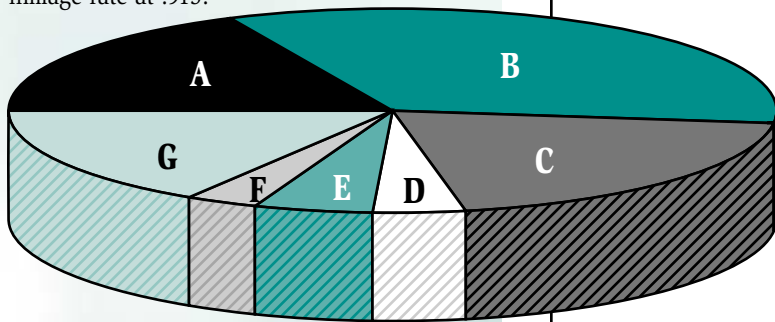
The board has been investigating ideas to improve the pond located at Enos Godshall Park. Currently the pond is covered with algae and duckweed. A township resident, Brianna Worley, studied the pond while doing a project for a class she was enrolled in at Ursinus College. Ms. Worley presented a proposal to create a wetland within the pond to the Franconia Park and Recreation board, Public Works Director, and the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors who were all in favor of the proposed idea. The park and recreation board has agreed to take the proposal Ms. Worley had prepared and pursue the project. Currently information is being gathered on the different permits that may be required for a wetland transformation.

In October of 2004 the park and recreation board applied for a grant to

(cont. on p. 3)

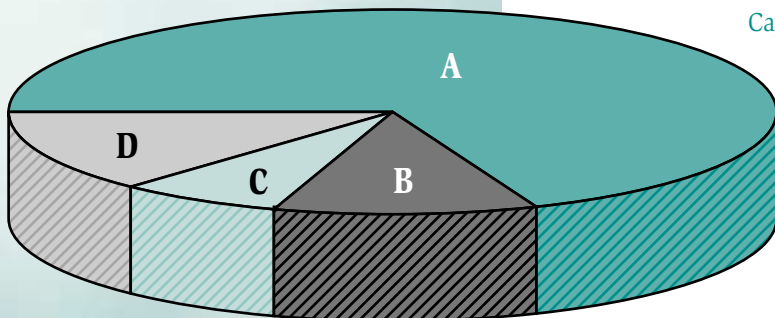
2005 Township Budget Approval - General Purpose Millage Rate Set at .646

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$4.29 million 2005 General Fund budget that included a millage increase to .646 for general purposes. The millage rate for fire (.102) and library (.165) support remained unchanged setting the 2005 millage rate at .913.



Expenses are allocated to the following departments:

- A) Administration: \$763,877
- B) Police/Fire Protection: \$1,454,101
- C) Public Works: \$853,497
- D) Code Enforcement: \$159,825
- E) Recreation: \$200,150
- F) Debt Service: \$140,668
- G) Interfund Transfers: \$715,805

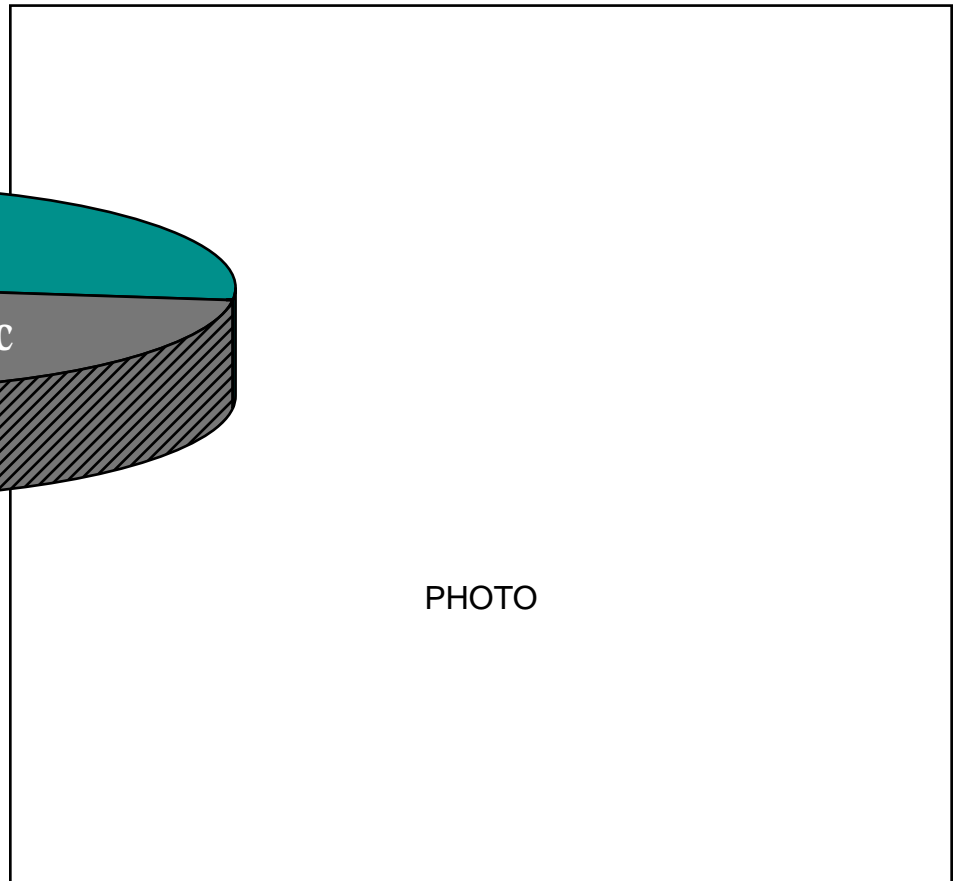


Revenue is from the following sources:

- A) Taxes (Real Estate, Per Capita, EIT): \$2,942,040
- B) Intergovernmental Revenue: \$469,975
- C) General Government Fees: \$316,550
- D) Operating Transfers: \$559,358

Open Space Efforts Showing Success

The Board of Supervisors continue to realize success in their effort to preserve some of Franconia Township's farming heritage. In 2004 the township participated in funding to permanently preserve the Nice farm located along Harleysville Pike (113) between Meetinghouse and Moyer roads. Additionally, the township secured the 57-acre Moyer farm at the corner of Halteman and Moyer roads. Currently the township has secured approximately 530 acres of farmland with another 110 acres in the process of negotiations or settlement. Upon settlement of these farms the township will have successfully preserved nearly 640 acres of farmland that will not be available for future development.



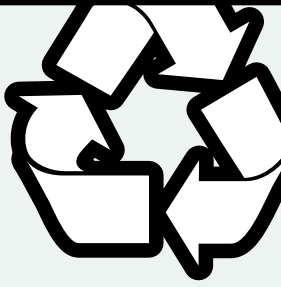
PHOTO

Caption
Caption
Caption

2005 Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan

The Open Space Committee plans to submit its revision of the Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in April 2005. Once received by the BOS, a public hearing and review of the plan will be conducted. Approval of the plan is expected by June 2005 and it will then be submitted to the Montgomery County Planning Commission for their review and approval. The plan revision meets the requirements of the Montgomery County Open Space funding and will be key to assisting the township in securing additional open space grant funding through the recently approved Growing Greener referendum approved by Montgomery County residents. The township expects to be eligible for nearly \$1.2 million in grant funding during the first round of funding.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Remember that taking the time to recycle helps to improve the land, air, water, and finances of Franconia Township. Simply sort plastics, aluminum, glass, and bi-metallic cans and place in a recycling bin. Newsprint and other paper must be bagged separately. Make sure the cans and bottles are washed out and the lids have been removed and discarded in the regular trash. Then place the recyclables out on the curb for your private waste hauler to pick up on trash day. Free recycle bins are available at the Township Office located on Allentown Road.

Additional recyclables can be dropped off at the Public Works Building located at 480 Indian Creek Road. There is one dumpster for glass (clear, brown, and green) and a second dumpster for aluminum cans only. Cardboard may be placed in a third dumpster. Please open and flatten boxes before placing in dumpster. Paper and plastic cannot be recycled at the Public Works Building. If you are interested in obtaining more information about recycling please contact your local private hauler. 🌱

What's New With the Park & Recreation Board? *(cont. from p. 1)*

develop the first phase of Forrest Meadow Park through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program. The program provides state and federal grant dollars to help fund community recreation projects like Forrest Meadow Park. A number of interested partners contacted the township and were included on the grant application. The application was completed and submitted by the Assistant Township Manager, Jamie Brophy on October 12th, 2004. The board is currently awaiting the results of the application process to see if the project was selected for funding. Results are due back by March 31, 2005.

Aside from projects the board is also busy with the yearly park items. Applications are being accepted until February 28, 2005 for use of the township fields. Pavilion reservations are also being accepted at the township building. Applications can be picked up and filled out Monday through Friday from 8:00AM until 4:30PM. With the summer season quickly approaching the board would like to let everyone know that they will be offering discount amusement park tickets this summer. The park and recreation board continue to plan events for township residents. Please reference the events schedule of the newsletter to find any upcoming events through the park and recreation board. 🌱

Act 537 Plan and Sewer Management Program Approved

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) granted final approval of the Franconia Township Act 537 Plan on December 14, 2004. A major component of the plan is a Sewer Management Program (SMP) that will require inspections of all existing on-lot disposal systems (OLDS). The SMP has divided the township into four areas based on watersheds. Each area will take approximately 9 to 12 months to complete inspections and submit its results to the BOS who will be charged with determining the options for correcting and/or eliminating any failing systems along with DEP support.

The SMP is expected to begin in April 2005, weather permitting, in the Morwood and Earlington areas. An open-house educational seminar was conducted in May 2004 to explain the then pending and now approved SMP process. Nearly 350 residents from the Morwood and Earlington areas attended the seminar. Surveys should be mailed during March 2005 along with additional educational material further explaining the SMP and the responsibilities of those residents that have OLDS on their property. Additional educational seminars will be held in each of the remaining watershed areas prior to commencement of inspections in each of those areas (one seminar per year).

Schoor DePalma Engineers will serve, as the township Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) during the study will manage the SMP. Efforts will be made to educate property owners, that have on-lot sewage disposal systems (OLDS), how to maintain these systems and explore options to correct existing OLDS that may be malfunctioning. A section of the township website (www.franconiatownship.org) will provide information regarding the SMP, educational material and links and points of contacts for any questions regarding the SMP. 🌱

West Broad/Cowpath/Godshall Roads Intersection Realignment

Since 2002 a steering committee has been planning a proposed realignment of the intersection located at W. Broad / Cowpath / Godshall roads. In 2003 a consultant was hired to conduct environmental studies, propose designs, and prepare for construction at the intersection. The project is assigned to the Commonwealth's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that supports highway projects through local, state and federal funding.

In April 2004, the township held an open house to introduce the project to residents. Currently the project is completing its first phase of work. Preliminary TS&L (type, size & location) plans were submitted to PennDot in December 2004 and will be reviewed once the hydraulic report and bridge calculations are submitted. On January 21, 2005 the project received cultural resource clearance from PennDot. Preliminary plan approval is expected sometime in mid 2005. 🌱

Land Development /Subdivisions


The following land developments/subdivisions have received final approval:

- **Maplewood Estates Phase 1:** Peter Becker Community is approved to construct phase one which consists of a wellness center - Schoolhouse Road
- **Club View at Indian Valley:** W.B. Homes Inc. is approved to construct a residential development consisting of 22 single-family dwellings - Godshall & Indian Creek Roads
- **Knight's Crest:** W.B. Homes Inc. is approved to construct a residential development consisting of 10 single-family dwellings - Allentown & Miner Road
- **Westport Farms:** T.H. Properties is approved to construct a mixed residential development consisting of single-family dwellings, twins, and townhouses totaling 140 units - Miner Road
- **Belmont Estates Phase 1:** T.H. Properties is approved to create a residential development consisting of 28 single-family lots - Bergey Road
- **Chad Clemens Land Development:** Chad Clemens is approved to construct a building and parking area to operate a landscaping business - Hagey Road
- **Breeswine & Litka Subdivision:** Thomas Breeswine & James Litka, 1-lot subdivision - W. Summit & Green Street
- **Allebach Tract Minor Subdivision:** 1-lot subdivision - Morwood Road
- **Silver Maple Estates Phase 1:** 1-lot subdivision - N. Fourth Street
- **Charles Walter Subdivision:** 1-lot subdivision - Indian Creek Road
- **Paul Freed Subdivision:** 2-lot subdivision - Freed & Morwood Roads


The following land developments have received preliminary approval:

- **Godshall Quality Meats:** Mark Godshall, expand the existing industrial building by adding a warehouse area - Mill Road
- **Silver Maple Estates Phase 2:** Drew Darrah, 4-unit single-family dwellings - N. Fourth Street

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

- **The Vistas at Highland Ridge:** Macoby Run Corporation, 26-unit single-family dwellings - Hunsicker Road
- **Penn View Tract:** Telvil Corporation, 13-lot subdivision - Reliance Road
- **Hendricks Property:** Wilbur & Rebecca Hendricks, 8-lot subdivision - Godshall Road
- **Moyer Packing Company:** 3-lot reverse subdivision - Lower Road
- **Allebach Tract:** Jack & Karen Parry, 9-lot subdivision - Morwood & Hunsicker Roads
- **Greaser Tract:** Charles & Regine Greaser, 9-lot subdivision - Forrest Road
- **U.S. Stone:** John Bragitikos, construct two commercial buildings for the wholesale and storage of natural stone - Forman Road
- **Monti Tract Subdivision:** Mark Schlosser, 9-lot subdivision - Halteman Road
- **Moyer Property Subdivision:** Kane Core Inc., 6-lot subdivision - Moyer Road 

Volunteer Applications Available

Residents of Franconia Township that have an interest in serving on a committee or other volunteer commission should submit a Volunteer Application form to the Township Manager. The township retains applications for a two-year period to fill vacancies as they occur. The township relies on volunteer residents to be part of the legislative committees that assist the Board of Supervisors in their decision making process. Support your township by being a volunteer! 

Volunteer Fire Fighters Needed!

Over the past few years there has been a steady decline in volunteers for local fire companies. Franconia Township would like to encourage residents to volunteer! Fire fighters help save lives everyday and provide an invaluable service to all people. If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer fire fighter please contact any of the neighboring fire companies.

Perseverance Volunteer Fire Company
215-723-9209

Telford Volunteer Fire Company
215-723-4428

Harleysville Community Fire Co.
215-256-9657

Tylersport Volunteer Fire Company
215-257-5900 

Remember To Vote


Primary Election Day is just around the corner! The Township reminds all eligible residents to vote on May 17, 2005. Listed below are the polling places within Franconia Township. If you are unsure at which polling location you should be voting or you would like additional information pertaining to the primary election please contact **Voter's Registration at 610-278-3280.**

POLLING PLACES:

Franconia North-East:
Christ Church at Indian Creek,
Church & Cowpath Roads, Telford

Franconia North-West:
Franconia Township Building,
671 Allentown Road, Franconia

Franconia South-East:
Immanuel Leidy's United Church of Christ,
276 West Cherry Lane, Souderton

Franconia South-West:
Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Avenue, Harleysville
(Main Auditorium-
Administration Building) 

EventsCalendar

Saturday, March 19, 2005

Easter Egg Hunt

WHEN: 1:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(Rain Date: Sunday, March 20, 2005)

Come join the fun finding Easter eggs! The 14th Annual Easter Egg hunt will be held on Saturday March 19th 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!

April - May, 2005

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 7, 2005

Fishing Derby

WHEN: 9:00AM - 11:30AM

WHERE: Branchwood Park, Camp Road
(Morwood, PA)

State Representative Robert W. Godshall and the Franconia Park & Recreation Commission will be sponsoring the 14th 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!

May 9-13, 2005 (Mon. through Fri.)

Montgomery County Senior Games

WHEN & WHERE: Various

The 20th annual senior games will be held the week of May 9th to the 13th. Events

will be held throughout the week at various locations in Montgomery County, culminating with an awards luncheon on Friday, May 13th, 2005. 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 14, 2005

Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste & Computer Collection

WHEN: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

WHERE: Green Lane Park, Deep Creek Lake Tennis Court Parking Lot, Green Lane Road (off Rt. 29, Upper Frederick Township)

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 (not tires)
- Household cleaners
- Paint products (oil based only)
- Pool cleaners
- Lighter fluid
- Old computers & printers

*Please bring the products in their original containers, keeping all lids tight. Wrap leaky containers in newspaper and a plastic bag. For more information please call 610-278-3618 or visit this website www.wsaemc.org and click on the recycling and HHW links.

Saturday, May 21, 2005

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 21st, 2005 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 11, 2005

Cure P.D. 5K Run

WHEN: TBD

WHERE: Franconia Community Park
(starting point & registration)

Karen Pellak and her family will be holding the 2nd 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 June.

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

(tentative)

Magician In The Park Night

WHEN: TBD

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

The Franconia Township Park & Recreation Board will be organizing a magic show in the community park this summer. Details on the event will be forthcoming.

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mango Men

WHEN: 7:00PM - 9:00PM

WHERE: Franconia Community Park

(Alternate Location: In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be moved to an alternate site, which is still being confirmed at the current time.)

The Franconia Park & Recreation Board is please to announce that the Mango Men will be back for their 4th annual concert in the park this summer. Please come out and join us on the lawn of the Franconia Community Park. There will be plenty of music, food, and fun! 🌺

“Help Us Manage Stormwater Pollution”

Stormwater Ordinance Status: Franconia Township Engineers are currently working on a new stormwater ordinance. In March the engineers are hoping to present the ordinance to both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors at their regular work session. The ordinance will be presented in draft form to the board and then advertised for a public hearing at a regular meeting of the board of supervisors. At this meeting residents will be able to comment on the ordinance. We expect the public hearings to be held sometime this spring.

WHAT IS STORM WATER?

When it rains or snows, all of that precipitation either travels over the land or seeps into the ground. The water that runs over the land and gets into the storm sewer system is called storm water runoff. This water then goes directly into our nearby creeks, rivers, and lakes.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

As this water flows over the ground and through the streets it washes debris, chemicals, and other pollutants into our creeks. The runoff, along with everything it collects on the way, never gets treated! It

requires very expensive treatment technologies to remove these harmful pollutants from our drinking water supplies. In addition, excessive debris can clog inlets causing flooding and property damage.

WAYS FOR YOU TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION:

- *Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as oil, cleaning supplies, and paint. Never pour them into the storm sewer system.*
- *Properly and efficiently use pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides to prevent excess amounts into runoff.*
- *Report any signs of soil or other debris washing out of construction sites that could impact water quality.*
- *Pick up after pets and dispose of their wastes in the toilet or trashcan.*
- *Install innovative storm water practices on residential property such as rain barrels or rain gardens.*
- *Report any discharges from storm system outfalls during times of dry weather- a sign that there could be a problem with the system.*

HOW DO WE FIX IT?

Franconia Township, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, is currently

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*

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

taking steps to prevent storm water pollution through a federally mandated program that better manages storm water. The 5-year NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) program will reduce the pollution by identifying sources of contamination in our community and get the entire township involved in making sure our water stays clean for drinking, recreation and wildlife! Please, do your part and help us manage stormwater pollution!

For more information, go to the DEP website- www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword “stormwater”. 

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



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