

# franc talk



Spring 2019

## Buddies In Blue Program Connects Police And Students

The Buddies in Blue Program is a joint effort between the Franconia Township Police Benevolent Association and Franconia Elementary School. The program began in September of 2018.

School staff identified five students from single-parent households, whom they believed could use the support, guidance and mentorship of a big buddy. Those students were then paired with five Franconia Township Police Officers who eagerly volunteered to make a positive difference in the lives of children in our community.

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## First Annual Franconia Township Fall Festival Planned For October

Plans are well under way for the first of what we hope will be an annual fall festival here in Franconia Township Park on Saturday and Sunday, October 12 and 13, 2019.

The brainchild of the Franconia Police Benevolent Association, "Fall Fest" will reinvigorate the

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### FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road  
Telford, PA 18969-2205  
215-723-1137  
www.franconiatownship.org

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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### POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Michael L. Martin, Chief  
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### BUILDING/PLUMBING INSPECTION

215-723-1137  
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Code Enforcement Director  
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### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

215-723-1153  
Paul R. Nice, Public Works Director



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# A Message From The Township Manager



As warmer weather is upon us, we can finally put winter in our rearview mirror. A special thank you to the Township's Public Works Department for working so hard to keep our roads safe and clear from the winter snow and ice. It's so nice to speak with residents who are so appreciative of the Township staff and the work they put into maintaining our roads.

We are well underway with our 2019 list of initiatives, including an aggressive road paving schedule, planned family activities in the park, as well as some new programming from our Police Department. The Board of Supervisors and staff continue to work hard on improving quality of life initiatives and planning to keep Franconia such a desirable and livable community.

Recently, the Township adopted an updated Open Space and Park and Recreation Plan, which will ensure and memorialize the Township's priorities in funding open space and park and recreation projects. Shortly, we will be embarking on a new Act 209 plan, which both plans and funds new traffic projects throughout the Township.

## ***Mud, Dust and Dirt***

I think we have all been affected by the work on the Turnpike. Truck noise, truck traffic and mud on the roads have been just some of the complaints we've been hearing. And while it has been very frustrating, we have seen improvement from the Turnpike and their contractors in trying to remedy some of the issues. While the Turnpike work continues, the latest word we've heard from PennDOT is that construction for the 309 Connector road will begin in 2020. This long awaited project is in its final stages of planning and right-of-way acquisition, with shovels in the ground expected soon.

I wish you and your families a wonderful 2019, filled with much happiness. I hope to see you this year at our Township sponsored events or if you ever have any issues, please feel free to reach out to me or the Township staff.

Thank you for making Franconia such a wonderful community!





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## **Buddies In Blue Program Connects Police And Students** (cont. from page 1)

The officers have the responsibility of keeping in contact with their little buddies through school/home visits, phone/text, and non-school specific activities. Each officer can also check in on any of the little buddies at any time to show support.

The moms and siblings of the little buddies are also thrilled to have a connection with the police officers. Although this is currently a pilot program, the officers and students are successfully navigating their way through the learning process with the goal of possibly expanding to other schools in the District.

The officers are currently planning a surprise outing for the group. To date, the little buddies have joined their big Buddies in Blue for adventures such as bowling, Souderton Borough Christmas Parade, pizza parties, trips to the movies and, of course, schoolwork and friendship.

## **Prescription Drug Drop-Off Box Available At Police Department**

Any residents looking to discard their unused or expired prescription medications are welcome to take them to the Police Department. There is a convenient, secure green container in the station lobby where items can be deposited. The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Sharps or syringes are not considered household hazardous waste and should be disposed of with your regular trash pickup. Sharps should be placed in a puncture-resistant hard plastic or metal container. The container should be sealed and placed in a securely fastened opaque trash bag. It is also recommended to disinfect sharps with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach in a half gallon of water. Please do not recycle sharps.

For more information, see Montgomery County's website at <https://www.montcopa.org/2009/Sharps-Syringes>.

## **First Annual Franconia Township Fall Festival Planned For October** (cont. from page 1)

spirit of our former National Night Out event, while incorporating new features, activities and entertainment.

The committee is working on securing vendors, entertainers, sponsors, food and equipment to fill the days with fun and community spirit for all ages. The tentative agenda includes "First-Responders Day", a car show, hay maze, live music, a pumpkin patch, lots of great food and much, much more.

So mark your calendars and plan to join us as we welcome the Fall season and celebrate all that the Indian Valley has to offer!

## No Smoke, No Fire.....Keep Franconia Safe

For years, open burning has been a hot topic for municipalities throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Like most municipal regulations, the State plays a major role in what a local municipality can and cannot regulate. The burning of yard waste for the purpose of waste disposal represents a violation of both the air quality regulations in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Air Basin as well as the State's municipal recycling requirements. Further, Pennsylvania's Solid Waste Management Act prohibits open burning without a permit from the Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). As such, the local Fire Marshal has established an "open burning ban" in Franconia Township.



Open burning means burning of any and all waste as well as the burning of yard waste, including leaves, twigs, brush and/or grass in the open air. No burning of this type is permitted in the Township. An exception to this rule is for farmers owning 10 acres or more. They are exempt from the ban due to agricultural reasons.

Burning leaves may be harmful to your health. While leaf smoke can irritate the eyes, nose and throat of healthy adults, it can be more harmful to the elderly and people with lung or heart diseases and small children.

In an effort to promote recycling, Franconia Township provides free leaf bags for residents at the Township Building on Allentown Road. Residents can pick up 10 leaf bags per visit. Please contact your hauler to determine their schedule and guidelines for removal of leaf bags.

## Electronics Recycling Program No Longer Available

Although State law requires electronics manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities for TVs and computers, those manufacturers are no longer sponsoring County recycling collections in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region.

Concern about the lack of disposal options for TVs and computers should be directed to the appropriate State Representative and Senator. If you are uncertain who that is, go to [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us) and on the left under "Find Your Legislator," enter your address.



## Stormwater Management: Here Are The Issues

In our last issue of Franc Talk, the concept of stormwater management was discussed. It's important to understand how Federal and State regulations – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) view stormwater management and what their expectations are for the Township and residents.

Stormwater is just what it sounds like – water from a rain or storm event. But what happens to that water is what has EPA and PADEP concerned. Think about what happens to rainwater that falls on your property. It could fall on the roof of your house, get collected in rain gutters, and discharge into your yard. It could also fall on your driveway and flow out to the road or a stormwater inlet. Most of the rainwater probably falls on your grass and percolates into the soil. But that's not where stormwater ends.



There are a number of potential problems – some of which you have certainly seen. When rainwater falls on impervious surfaces or is collected in stormwater pipes, it flows rapidly to receiving streams. This rapid flow causes flooding and can erode stream banks. This type of discharge is called point-source pollution (PSP) because it enters a stream from identifiable points. Rainwater that flows across a field or yard and enters a stream along a wide area is considered sheet flow, or non-point source pollution (NPSP).

Aside from the speed with which the rainwater enters a waterway, EPA and PADEP are also concerned with what the rainwater picks up on the way. Oil dripping onto a driveway, nutrients from a failed on-lot disposal system, yard fertilizers and pesticides, animal waste, gray water by-passing sewage treatment, soaps from car washing, and numerous other pollutants get picked up by the rainwater as it makes its way to a stream. Regulators want residents and the Township to actively correct these pollution issues.

You can get an idea of what you as a resident can do to clean up stormwater from the above paragraph. In the next issue of Franc Talk, we will provide you with specific things that you can do, as well as what the Township is required to do to protect stormwater.



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## Franconia Township Events Calendar

### *Franconia Township Clean-Up Day*

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 18, 2019  
7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

Any Franconia resident may dispose of normal household trash at this year's Township Clean-Up Day at the above location.

Prior registration is required and can be done in person beginning Friday, April 12 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building located at 671 Allentown Road between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Registration is first come, first served and spaces are 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)

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

### *Youth Tennis Clinic*

**WHEN:** June 17-20, 2019 (Rain date: 6/21)  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**WHERE:** Franconia Community Park Tennis Courts

The Franconia Parks & Recreation Board will once again be sponsoring a youth tennis clinic this summer. The clinic will be for children 6-12 years old. Skilled instruction will be provided by Monica Bach. The cost of the clinic is \$100 per person, and all you need to bring along for the clinic is a tennis racket! Please check with the Township Office or the website to get any information or updates on this clinic.

### *Concert in the Park*

The Franconia Parks & Recreation Board is pleased to announce that they will be sponsoring two summer concerts this year. Our first performance will be by the popular local band, The Mighty Manatees.

For our second concert, we will be bringing back last year's band, Barefoot Bobby and the Breakers for a repeat performance since they were such a hit. Please come out and enjoy these two great performances at Franconia Community Park.

**WHO:** The Mighty Manatees  
**MUSIC:** Reggae, Roots & Rock  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 (Rain Date: June 26, 2019)  
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**WHO:** Barefoot Bobby & the Breakers  
**MUSIC:** Pop, Country & Rock radio hits  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 (Rain Date: July 24, 2019)  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM







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## Morwood-Area Sewer Plan Moving Forward

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approved the Township's Morwood-Area 537 Plan, and it has been turned over to Franconia Sewer Authority to implement.

The plan was divided into two phases. Phase 1 includes all of Rittenhouse Place, Creamery, Landis, and Ridge View Roads, as well as portions of Morwood, Camp, Hunsicker, Ruth, Keller Creamery, Crestwood, and Allentown Roads. Phase 1 construction is set to begin May 2, 2019.

Phase 2 includes all of Gerhart Lane and Eisenhower and Springshire Drives, as well as portions of Crestwood Drive, Keller Creamery and Hunsicker Roads. Phase 2 construction does not have an official start date but is targeted at five years out, more or less, depending on environmental, economic and/or resident pressure.

The infrastructure (sewer main layout) has been designed and went out for bid in February 2019. Awarding the bid to the qualified, lowest bidder occurred on March 14.

The Authority is working up final costs and will be communicating that information to residents in Phase 1. Pennsylvania currently has a program offering low interest loans for the bulk of the cost to connect to public sewer. Residents are encouraged to check into this (whether you are in the Morwood area or not) at [www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org).

## Citizens Police Academy A Success

Fifteen local residents participated in the Police Department's newly revised Citizens Police Academy. The participants, who ranged in age from high school graduates to retirees, spent one night per week with members of our Police Department, County agencies, first responders and prosecutors to get a first-hand look at modern policing in our area.

This exciting and interactive experience allowed participants to "walk a mile in the shoes" of police officers, thereby creating a bridge to understanding and partnership. Although the graduates were not certified in any way to enforce the law, they earned certifications in First Aid, CPR and the use of AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

The eight-week Academy offered an excellent opportunity for residents and police officers to bond in an informal, yet structured setting. Our newest "cadets" graduated in April, 2019.





## FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP

671 Allentown Road  
Telford, PA 18969-2205

[www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org)

## Discount Amusement Park Tickets Coming!

The Township will once again be offering amusement park discount tickets this year. Tickets will be arriving soon so check the Township website for their availability, list of tickets and pricing offered this year. Tickets are cash only and can be purchased in the Township Office on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Sign Up For The Township's Email Newsletter

The Township's email newsletter delivers updates on activities, news and meetings right to your inbox. To subscribe, just visit the Township's website at [www.franconiatownship.org](http://www.franconiatownship.org). Your address will only be used for the Township's email newsletters.



You can also keep informed by following the Township on [Twitter at @FranconiaTwp](#).