



Franklin Township Newsletter

Chester County, PA

Volume 3 Issue 1

February 2008

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to one of the three opportunities we have each year to try to directly communicate with all Franklin residents and taxpayers. By definition, all of our other communication efforts are limited to those who check out the newspapers (and the coverage those newspapers can devote to Franklin), or to those who sign up for email updates, attend meetings, or check the website: <http://www.franklintownship.us>.

I imagine a few might be skeptical, but we who volunteer at the Twp. have a sincere desire to communicate as much factual information as possible. It's a sure thing that "information" is going to circulate, one way or the other. It's much better for us all for that communication to be from the source, even if sometimes it's not exactly what everyone might like to hear.

We're trying to get more and more information on the website. Please let us know if there's something you think would be helpful to be there, but isn't. Please also let us know if there are topics you'd like to see covered in future newsletters. Also, if you know any who are renting residences in the Twp., please consider passing the newsletters along to them after you're finished (because the addresses available to us are based on property ownership records).

Finally, please always feel free to
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Accomplishments and Goals in Franklin

The start of a new year, with a new Board of Supervisors, is a great time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and look forward to this coming year.

Juanita Bennett's and Teddy Price's terms on Franklin Township's Board of Supervisors ended in 2007. At the January 16 Board of Supervisors' meeting, Roger Wilson's resignation was announced, effective Jan. 9. Each contributed their skills (and hundreds of hours) in making the hard decisions necessary to make Franklin Township what it is today. Thank you Juanita, Roger and Teddy for your dedication to our Township!

Nan Latimer and Paul Overton were sworn in to their elected seats on the Board on January 7 to begin their six-year terms. The Board must appoint someone to fill Roger's seat until the next municipal election within 30 days.

There were no increases in tax rates for 2008. Franklin Township property taxes will remain at 3.245 mills. with the earned income tax remaining at .5 percent. Details of the 2008 budget can be found on page 4.

Ordinances and resolutions enacted in 2007 included:

- beginning the process of updating the Zoning Ordinances to be in line with the 2006 Comprehensive Plan.
- amending the Subdivision Ordinance to place higher fines and penalties on property owners that have unacceptable erosion and sediment control issues.
- establishing the Traditional Neighborhood District in the center of Kemblesville.



Nan Latimer and Paul Overton at their first Board of Supervisor's meeting.

- approving a Swimming Pool Resolution that requires all 24-inch and higher prefabricated above-ground pools to be permitted and have a four-foot high fence.

Highlights of the Open Space efforts for the Township saw the following activity:

- 11 properties (four owners) totaling 917.30 acres were included into the Agricultural Security Area.
- a second landowner donated their conservation easements for an 80+ acres.
- two additional properties received county conservation grants and both are awaiting state funding in 2008, totaling 230+ acres.
- the Howard property was settled, preserving 29 acres through the Open Space Fund and county and state grants.

A detailed report of the Open Space Committee's work can be found on the website.

In 2007, the Trail Committee held public meetings to determine where and for

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Accomplishments

(Continued from page 1)

what uses our residents would like to see a trail system developed in the Township. In 2008, the process will conclude with a trail plan.

The Botanical Survey conducted in 2007 found a total of 804 species, some of which are rare and/or endangered and about 259 of the species are considered alien.

Township employees and consultants worked on 31 separate development plans and/or applications during 2007. The process will continue in 2008.

The renovation of the former Kemblesville Elementary School was begun by the Avon Grove Charter School in 2007. The school is expected to open for the fall of 2008.

In 2007, 137 permits (55 of which were use and occupancy) were issued in 2007. West Grove Fire Company made 74 fire calls and 153 ambulance calls to the township.

In Crossan Park, the Township limited use on the playing field to improve the turf's conditions to 140 events on the multipurpose field and 130 events on the 60-foot baseball field. These numbers will be used again in 2008. Also in 2007, a new multipurpose field (soccer/flag football) was built at the park.

During 2007, the Township worked with consultants to complete a road study and 10-year road maintenance plan for the nearly 35 miles of roadway in the Township. A sign inventory for the entire Township was completed. The 10-Year Road Maintenance Planning Program is available for review at the Township Office.

Approximately 2.6 miles of roads were refurbished in 2007 at a cost of approximately \$673,000.

The Township is planning to refurbish 2.72 miles of roadway in 2008, depending on road conditions at the end of this winter season. See the related story on page 3.

The Township's most dangerous intersection--Routes 896 and 841--received some attention in 2007 with new warning signs

Franklin Township's Organization

Franklin Township's 2008 organizational chart outlines the commissions and committees that serve the Township.

From time to time there are openings on the commissions or committees. If you would be

willing to volunteer a small amount of your time to help make your township a better place, please call Sharon at 610-255-5212. Currently there is a need to fill vacancies on the Historical Commission and the Historical Architectural Review Board.

Board of Supervisors

Dick Whipple, Chairperson
Paul Overton, Vice Chairperson
Norman Hughes, Member
Nan Latimer, Member
open seat, Member

Administration

Stephen Ross, Interim Township Manager/Secretary
Jeffrey Eastburn, Ast. Township Manager
Joan McVaugh, Treasurer
Sharon Norris, Secretary

Appointed Commissions and Committees

Planning Commission: Ralph Olivier-Chair, Eric Brindle-Vice Chair, Richard Squadron-Secretary, Mark Harris, Dave Hoffman

Open Space Committee: Phil Geoghegan-Chair, Dolores Hughes, Bob Brechter, Teddy Price, Paul Overton

Zoning Hearing Board: Bill Finch, chair, Connie Chiasson, Debbie Hinderer, Nancy Chromey-alt., Dave Francis-alt., William P. Lincke, Esq.-Solicitor

Historical Commission: Lou Mandich-Chair, Dolores Hughes-Vice Chair, Wendy Toman, Kevin Hull, Dave Kidder, Joe Neuman, Ralph Olivier

Historical Architectural Review Board

(HARB): Ralph Olivier-Chair, Lou Mandich-Vice Chair, Wendy Toman, Keith Herrington, Kevin Hull, Dave Kidder, Duane Brady-Zoning Officer

Recycling Coordinator: Jim Trouba

Emergency Management: Harold Walls

Act 209 Committee: Kevin Barrow, Tina Chromey, Ken Crossan, Scott Downs, Earl Hatton, Dave Kidder, Patti Kehrer

Vacancy Board: Teddy Price

UCC Appeal Board: Steve Lee, Ralph Olivier, Bill Finch

Other Township Officials

Board of Auditors (elected): Mike Korsak, Fred Scheing, and Carol Daly

Tax Collector: (elected): Marcia Lee

Tax Collector: (appointed): Berkheimer

and rumble strips on the southbound lane of Route 896. Township officials met with the Pennsylvania Transportation Commission urging the need to upgrade the safety at this intersection.

To keep residents up-to-date on Township issues, the Franklin Township Newsletter was published three times in 2007 and three issues are planned for 2008.

Information about Township business is posted regularly on the Township website: www.franklintownship.us. Check it out regularly!

As always, residents are encouraged to bring their concerns to the attention of the Board through emails, phone calls, or by attending public meetings.

Reminder To Residents:

All residents must file their Earned Income Tax payment to Berkheimer Tax Administrator by April 15, 2008. The mailing address is 50 N. Seventh St., Bangor PA 18013. Forms are available in the Township office and online at www.hab-inc.com.

Message from Chairman

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email me if you have any questions or if you'd like to check out the accuracy of anything Franklin related that you're hearing: rwwhipple1@aol.com. We want to communicate as much as possible. Please help us accomplish this goal. Thanks!

Dick Whipple, Chairman
Franklin Township
Board of Supervisors

www.franklintownship.us -- Check it regularly for current Franklin Township news!

Township News and Notes

Update on Crossan Park

Seeding was completed on the new playing field in Crossan Park in the late summer of 2007. It is not certain if the field will be playable in 2008 because of weather and other unforeseen circumstances. A determination will be made later this summer for limited play in the fall of 2008.

Please refrain from playing on the new field until it is officially opened. Your patience is needed so that the grass can become well established before it receives heavy use.

Dog Licenses

All dogs, three months of age and older, must be licensed in the State of Pennsylvania. Owners can be fined for not licensing their dogs.

The County Treasurer's office is responsible for issuing the dog license. Yearly fees are \$6 for spayed and neutered dogs and \$8 if not. Senior and disabled citizens receive a \$2 discount.

Dog licenses can be obtained at the Chester County Treasurer's Office (by mail or in person). An application can be downloaded at www.chesco.org/treasurer (click on PA Dog License link). West Grove and Oxford Borough offices also sell licenses.

Eagle Scout Project

Mookie Reich, a Franklin Township resident and member of Chester County Council Boy Scouts of America Troop 10, is designing and planting a garden at the Township Building for his Eagle Scout project. The project is intended to beautify the area as well as conceal the well cap that is on the site. Mookie plans to start the project in the early spring, once he receives approvals from the Boy Scouts and the Township.

Residents wishing to donate plants, mulch, or funds for the garden can contact Sharon at 610-255-5212.

Mt. Olivet Road Gets Grant for Repairs

Under the Chester County Dirt and Gravel Road Program, Franklin Township received an approximately \$13,000 grant (almost 50 percent of the estimated cost) to rehabilitate Mt. Olivet Road.

The project involves the reestablishment of the roadway surface, the development of a roadway crown, the regrading and lining with stone of the roadway swales, and the installation of drainage pipes that will allow water to be properly dispersed.

The work will be done by the Township's maintenance contractor, Yardworks, and should be completed no later than June 30.

Road Rehabilitation Continues in 2008

Franklin Township's Board of Supervisors continues to make road restoration an important priority for 2008. In the second year of the Road Maintenance Program, 2.72 miles of roadway were identified for rehabilitation and \$619,500 was budgeted for the program.

Roads identified for the 2008 road rehabilitation are:

- Hess Mill Road (recently paved area to Wingate Drive)- .67 miles
- Hess Mill Road (Wingate Drive to Conards Mill Road)- .20 miles
- Hess Mill Road (Conards Mill Road to New London Township Line)- .15 miles
- Highland Drive-.34 miles
- Lizzane Lane- .07 miles
- Kimblelot Lane (Peacedale Road to recently paved area)- .27 miles
- Kimbelot Lane (Lizanne Lane to Route 896)-.23 miles

- Carriage Run Drive- .44 miles
- Liberti Lane- .35 miles

Identified drainage issues, which are the major cause of failing roadways, will be fixed before the roadways are resurfaced.

The above plan may be altered depending on two factors. The condition of all Township Roads after the winter season will be evaluated and if there is any major failure, that could take priority over the roads listed above. Also, the Township does not know exact costs until the project goes out to bid. If prices come in higher than expected (which is governed by the price of oil), some roads may be moved until next year.

Please call the Township office with any questions or concerns.

Community Spaces, Natural Places

A free workshop plus field training

Workshop dates: February 23, 9:30 a.m. to noon or February 26, 6:45 to 9:15 p.m.

Field Training dates: April 19 and May 3, 9 to 11 a.m.

The White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Program will sponsor public workshops for landowners in the WCC watershed, which will provide attendees with:

- presentations regarding the "outstandingly remarkable" natural resources that qualified the watershed for a National Wild and Scenic River designation,
- the role of natural landscaping management and habitat restoration in conserving and enhancing those resources, a review of the requirements for community open space management in Franklin, London Grove, and London Britain Townships,
- tips on how to help create a favorable community opinion of, and practical support for, native landscaping in your development,
- possible sources of technical and funding assistance for restoration projects,
- the opportunity to network with other landowners and community associations regarding habitat restoration, and
- helpful resource materials to take home.

The workshops will be followed in April and May with field training opportunities to learn how to identify invasive plants and more effectively control their spread.

Pre-registration is preferred one week prior to the workshop or field training; contact: Jenna, 610-869-0420, or riveradministrator@whiteclay.org. More details at www.whiteclay.org.

Township Meetings

All meetings are held in the meeting room at the Township Office.

- Work Session—2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- Planning Commission—1st Thursday, 7pm
- Historical Architectural Review Board and Historic Commission—3rd Tuesday, odd months, 7pm
- Open Space Com.—2nd Monday, 6:30pm

**How to contact
Franklin Township**

**In person:
20 Municipal Lane
Kemblesville, Pa. 19347
(Office hours M-F 8am-4pm)**

**By Phone: 610-255-5212
By Fax: 610-255-0659**

**By Mail: P. O. Box 118,
Kemblesville, PA 19347**

emai: franklin-twp@verizon.net

**On the web:
www.franklintownship.us**

**Franklin Township Newsletter
P. O. Box 118
Kemblesville, PA 19347**

**US POSTAGE
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Kemblesville, PA
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Highlights of Franklin Township's 2008 Budget

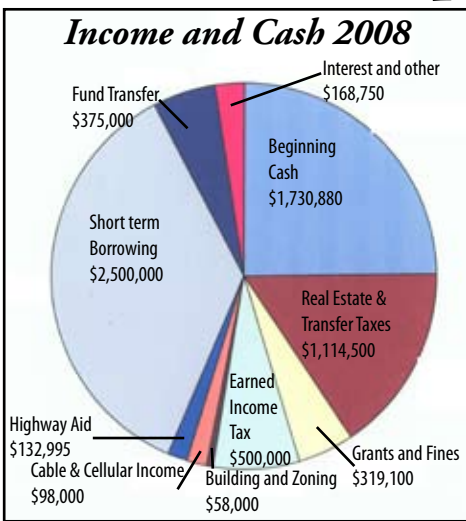
Below are a few of the highlights from the 2008 budget process. Township Treasurer Joan McVaugh has worked diligently keeping track of all the Township's finances, which helped the administration and supervisors make the decisions for our community.

For 2008, there is no increase in the property tax millage rate of 3.245 mills. The breakdown of the millage includes 2.075 mills for general purposes, .4 mills for emergency services, and .27 mills for park and recreation. Also, .5 mills is dedicated to the Open Space Fund per the voter referendum in 2002. The earned-income tax for a resident of Franklin Township is .5 percent. About 100 residents (where fire hydrants are installed) were charged a Fire Hydrant Tax of \$90 for maintenance of the hydrants.

Total expected Cash and Income is projected at \$6,995,325. The "Income and Cash" pie chart illustrates the Township's sources.

Much of the cash balance carried forward is for special funds such as Open Space and Parks, and Capital Reserve Funds. Expenditures from these funds are made on an as-needed basis.

In 2008, the Township anticipates the purchase of two large parcels for open space preservation. About 90 percent of the funding will come from state and county grants. However, the Township will need to borrow for the short term the full purchase price until the funds are actually received,



hence the \$2,500,000 in a short term borrowing fund included in this budget.

Franklin Township's budgeted expenditures total \$5,130,490. The "Expenses 2008" pie chart illustrates the Township's planned expenditures.

The 2008 budget contemplates a significant contribution to funding road improvements based on the 10-Year Road Improvement Plan. A total of \$619,500 is allocated to major road improvements from the following funds: General Fund-\$20,000 (if money budgeted for snow removal and road repairs in the General Fund is not spent, additional road improvements totaling \$94,600 may be added to the 2008 road program), Liquid Fuels Fund - \$135,000, and Capital Reserve Fund - \$464,500.

In 2008, \$220,000 is budgeted for salt shed replacement and improvements to the Township building. Also an additional \$25,000 will be used to obtain and install GIS (Geographic Information System) computers, software, and support.

The Emergency Services Fund has budgeted \$104,090 as follows: West Grove Fire Company (fire and ambulance) - \$67,850, Avondale Fire Company - \$4,500, Avondale Ambulance - \$3,500 and Medic 94 (advanced life support) - \$29,050.

Funds were also budgeted for park improvements-\$5,000, trail acquisition-\$15,000, and open space planning assistance-\$61,750.

Residents may review the complete budget by making an appointment at the Township office - 610-255-5212.

