



# Franklin Township Newsletter

Chester County, PA

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## 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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