



Chester County, PA

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Message from the Chairman

If you take the time to read this issue of the Franklin Township Newsletter, cover to cover, you'll possibly: be prouder than ever of our local youth...be reminded of the beauty of the remaining rural aspects of the township. ...know where to drop off many things you'd like to dispose of ... marvel at the wide variety of bird species on just a few parcels in the Township. ... see how much just one committed and energetic volunteer can accomplish ... be happy with your Board of Supervisors for renewing one of the very few Impact Fees (on new development) that townships can levy ... not need to shovel the same snow twice ... help the snow plows get through promptly and safely ... know what the traffic barricades are all about by the Kemblesville School ... save yourself possibly tens of thousands of dollars on a new septic drainfield ... be in a position to decrease negative impacts of stormwater runoff ... avoid puncturing a pipeline (with the drama and potential damage that could cause) ... and be astounded by the picture taking abilities of our newsletter editor. Phew ... after all that, it might be time to relax and soak in mother nature by hitting the trails in Franklin's Crossan Park (on Parsons Rd.), or maybe play a set or two or three of tennis if that's your method of relaxation.

Actually, as difficult as it is to believe, some may find a bit of the content in this issue of the newsletter to be on the boring side (much like you'd probably categorize the writer of this intro). But that, to me at least, is a very, very good thing. For the most part, boring is a positive when it comes to local government. Rather than being on the evening news, or observing helicopters overhead, I suspect that

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Encouraging Youth to get Involved

It's a win-win situation when a young person chooses to get involved in their community through volunteering or implementing a community service project.

Organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts, 4-H, and local high schools, encourage volunteering and service projects to benefit the local community.

The youth gain valuable experience in leadership and civic responsibility and our Township reaps the benefit from the work that is done.

"We want our residents to know Franklin Township is youth-friendly," says Supervisor Nan Latimer, who also acts as the Township's service project coordinator. "We keep a wish list of service projects that could be accomplished by interested youth in the Township. All they have to do is ask. There are currently plenty of opportunities for work on trails and clearing invasive plants this winter."

This year, two local Boy Scouts chose to work with Franklin Township to complete their Eagle Scout community service project. Mookie Reich, of Troop 10, recently completed a new garden with a birdbath that covers the well pipe to spruce up the Franklin Township building. Joe Pitts, of Troop 18, is in the planning phase of a project to renovate some gardens at Crossan Park in the spring.

The Eagle Scout project requires each candidate to plan and execute a community service project that takes at least 100 hours to complete. The Scout must work with representatives of the project's organization in the planning of the project and then lead others in completing the project.



Mookie Reich, of Troop 10 Chester County Council Boy Scouts of America, has completed his Eagle Scout project, which was to plant a garden to beautify the Township Building. His project included building a custom bird bath to cover the well pipe.

Another way to encourage youth participation in their community is through attending the Township's public meetings. Many times, attending a public meeting is a requirement for merit badges in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, or as an assignment in civics and social studies classes in high school.

In Franklin Township, the Supervisors' Work Session is held on the second Wednesday and the Board of Supervisors' Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Township Building. Meeting agendas are posted online, which could help a youth prepare for attending the meeting.

"At meetings, we'll take the time to talk to young visitors, explain what is happening, and answer their questions when the meeting is over," says Latimer. "The Work Session and Board of Supervisors' meetings are great opportunities to see local government in action."