

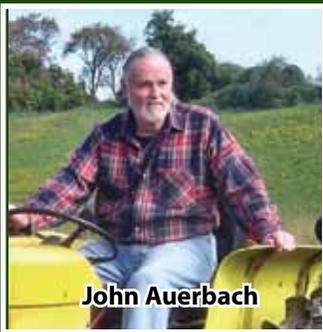


Volume 6 No. 1

Winter 2012

### Meet Our New Supervisors

Two members of the community, John Auerbach and Penny Schenk, took the oath of office to serve the residents of this Township as supervisors on January 2.

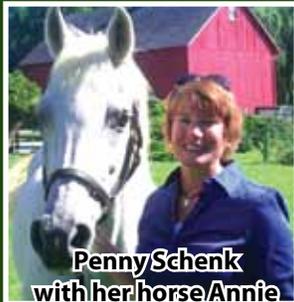


John Auerbach

John, a 33-year resident of Franklin Township, is excited about serving his community.

As an engineer with the DuPont Company, he moved to the Township for its rural nature because both he and his wife enjoyed the outdoors. John is now widowed. His son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter are currently building a house in Franklin Township and will relocate soon.

Penny is a life-long Pennsylvania resident, an 18 year Chester County resident, and an 11 year Franklin Township resident.



Penny Schenk with her horse Annie

She's been married to her husband for 23 years and together they've raised four children. The youngest is 15 and the

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### Volunteer Opportunity

Are you interested in participating in the Great American Clean Up? Franklin Township wants to participate with a Spring Roadside Cleanup on April 14.

The project is still in the planning stages, but check the website regularly for more details or call/email the Township Office.

## The Roads of Franklin Township

Within the borders of Franklin Township there are 53.72 miles of roads. Of these, 36.73 miles are owned and maintained by the Township. The remaining 16.99 miles of roadways are under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's control and responsibility for maintenance.

State-owned roads in Franklin Township include: Appleton Road, Clay Creek Road, Chesterville Road (Route 841), Good Hope Road, North Bank Road, North Creek Road, Pennock Bridge Road, New London Road (Route 896), Strickersville Road, and Wickerton Road (Route 841) and a small section of Auburn Road between Clay Creek and N. Bank roads.

PennDOT is responsible for the maintenance of state roads and the Township has no control over their condition. The Township's staff works closely with PennDOT to alert them to problems on the state roads in the Township. If you notice potholes or other hazardous problems on state roads, please call PennDOT's hotline at: 1-800-FIX ROAD (1-800-349-7623).

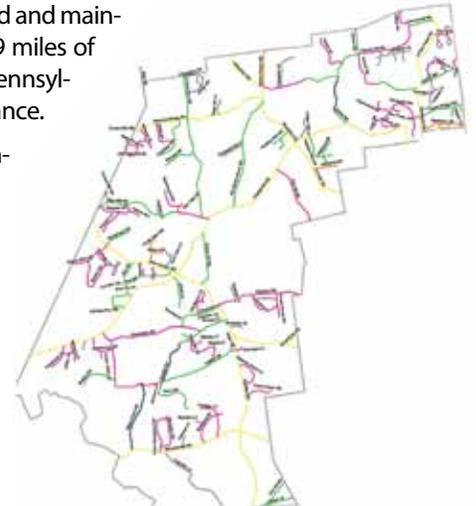
Five years ago the Township began an ambitious project to repair and renovate Township roads as many were old, suffering from neglect, had drainage issues, or were made with inferior construction. Scott Allen, of McCormick Taylor, the Township's road consultant, developed a plan to repair and renovate all Township roads to modern safety standards. He first assessed all the roads, determined the extent of repairs needed and then prioritized those in greatest need of repair.

It was estimated it would take at least 10 years to renovate all 36.73 miles of roads and a 10-year plan outlining recommendations for each of the years was created. Flexibility was designed for this living document as each year an annual road inspection adjusts the list based on current road conditions. Also, changes could be made based on funds available and annual fluctuations in the bids and cost of asphalt.

Early each year the Township determines which roads will be renovated based on the early inspection and condition of the roads, available funds and the cost of asphalt. To make the funds stretch furthest the Township seeks bids early in the season when contractors are offering the most competitive pricing. To date 15.89 miles of Township roads and 1.86 miles of dirt and gravel roads have been renovated.

Road renovation involves more than just a new layer of asphalt. Drainage problems affecting the road are corrected and the road's base is upgraded to modern standards before the topcoat of asphalt is rolled into place.

The map above highlights Franklin Township's road network. Included with the electronic version of the newsletter, posted on the Township's website, and available for viewing at the Township Office is a larger color version of the map.



An overview of Franklin Township's roadways. Yellow lines are state-owned roads. Green lines indicate Township renovated roads, pink lines indicate roads still to be renovated and orange lines are the proposed 2012 road renovations. A larger, detailed map is posted on the Township website.

# Franklin Receives Citation



Franklin Township received a citation from the Chester County Commissioners. It reads:

*The Board of Commissioners of the County of Chester recognizes the municipal leaders and citizens of Franklin Township for their commitment to protecting the natural resources and quality of life of the community.*

*Franklin Township has been a valued partner to Chester County in the execution of the County's Landscapes and Landscapes2 plans. The municipality has pre-*

*served more than 1,600 acres and has served as a leader in proactively acquiring land with significant natural resources, and has provided vital assistance to non-profit organizations to do the same.*

*The Board of Commissioners, County of Chester, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania commends the leaders and citizens of Franklin Township for their dedication to the preservation of natural and agricultural lands, which are essential to the health and beauty of the Wild and Scenic White Clay Creek.*

*Signed, Terrence Farrell, Kathi Cozzone, and Ryan Costello*

## Meet Our Supervisors ... (cont. from page 1)

eldest 21. Her professional background is in the medical field, specifically in the area of Radiologic Technology. The family lives in an historic farmhouse they are restoring, which is both a joy and a challenge.

"I enjoy the rural nature of Franklin Township and living in a small close-knit community," says Penny. "I have a strong commitment to the community and have an extensive background as a volunteer through my church, the school district, and the community at large."

"My goal as a supervisor is to maintain the core functions of the local government (traffic safety, road maintenance, emergency services and zoning) at a high level while managing the expenses of the Township conservatively and responsibly," says Penny. "I would like to foster a sense of community and volunteerism and I am looking forward to opportunities to bring people together and improve our Township and our social fabric."

"I am very enthusiastic and excited about serving our community," says John. As Franklin Township's new chairman of the Board of Supervisors he's confident about his ability to manage the activities of local government and is attending specialized training for newly elected supervisors to help him perform his duties.

"My objective is to maintain the core functions of Franklin Township government at a high level," John says. "Managing costs within our available resources will be a key pursuit. I recognize the constraints of our tax base and understand current economic conditions demand we manage funds responsibly. I plan to manage FT's expenditures so that priorities are met and discretionary spending is fully evaluated."

Both Penny and John encourage all residents to get involved in our local government.

# Septic System Additives

## Part 5 of the Franklin Township On-lot Sewage Management Program Public Education Series

There are approximately 1,200 additive products on the market today, most of which claim to accelerate the natural processes in a treatment tank or even rejuvenate a clogged soil absorption system.

There are two distinct categories of additives used in a septic system: 1) chemical, which includes inorganic and organic compounds and 2) biological, which includes yeast, bacteria, and enzymes.

Over the past 40 years, there have been several studies conducted on septic tank additives; however, there is still some debate on their effectiveness. Part of the problem stems from the number of additives that are marketed and the lack of an established standard testing method for all additives.

It is important to understand that a homeowner does not need to add anything to an on-lot sewage system that is designed, operated, and properly maintained because naturally occurring bacteria are already present within typical household sewage. Contrary to popular belief and urban legend, items such as road kill or yeast do not need to be added to a septic tank.

Chemical additives, such as caustic hydroxides and sulfuric acid, should never be added to a septic system. Adding these products will destroy the bacterial population in the septic tank, possibly affect the permeability of the drainfield, and may cause groundwater contamination. Often, manufacturers of biological additives market their use to restore the bacterial balance in a septic tank on a monthly basis as part of a routine maintenance program.

Claims made on the effectiveness of additives to either eliminate pumping of a septic tank or restore permeability of the soil absorption system are unsubstantiated. **No product will allow a homeowner to replace a regular septic tank pumping and maintenance schedule.**

## Attention Homeowners with On-Lot Septic Systems

The Department of Environmental Protection requires all on-lot septic systems to be pumped at least every three years by a licensed contractor. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to have this completed.

As required by the DEP, the Township maintains a database for each property as to the date of the last regular septic system pumping. Letters were sent to homeowners who were out of compliance with the DEP requirement. Thanks to those homeowners who have since had their systems pumped. Remaining properties should be pumped ASAP or will face DEP penalties.

A list of septic system pumping contractors licensed to pump in Chester County is available at the Township Office or online at [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org) (Health Department, Environmental issues).

Please call the Township Office (610-255-5212) if you have questions about your property.

## 2012 Household Hazardous Waste Events

Among the items accepted at Household Hazardous Waste Events are car/truck batteries, gasoline, pesticides, oil-based paints, bleach, and antifreeze.

Items not accepted include explosives/ammunition, household batteries, latex paint, tires, appliances with Freon, used motor oil and unidentified waste.

A complete list of accepted items is online at the Chester County Solid Waste Authority's website: [chestercountyswa.org](http://chestercountyswa.org). Click on the waste disposal tab and then Household Hazardous Waste, and finally HHW Materials List.

Some events, as noted below with an asterisk accept electronic items for recycle including: CPUs/laptop computers, monitors, printers, CRT televisions and non-CRT televisions, copiers (desktop & stand-alone), answering machines, camcorders, cell phones, docking stations, electric typewriters, fax/copy machines/duplicators, microwaves, radios, remote controls/gaming consoles/controllers, stereo/tape/CD players, telephones & equipment, toner/ink cartridges, VCR/DVD players, testing equipment, and pagers.

Dates and locations are:

**\*Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:**  
CAT Pickering Campus  
1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville

**Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:**  
Owen J. Roberts Middle School  
981 Ridge Road, Pottstown

**\*Friday, June 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:**  
Coatesville Middle School parking lot  
1425 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville  
(Same entrance as CAT Brandywine)

**Saturday, September 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:**  
New Garden Twnshp. Maintenance Building  
(Proof of Residency May Be Required)  
8934 Gap Newport Road, Landenberg

**\*Saturday, October 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:**  
Government Services Center  
601 Westtown Road, West Chester,

### **\*E-waste accepted – see list**

More information about the disposing of household hazardous waste is available at the Chester County Solid Waste Authority's website: [chestercountyswa.org](http://chestercountyswa.org)

### ***Wanted: Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator***

Looking toward the future and planning for all contingencies, Franklin Township is seeking a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. This volunteer would train with Harold Walls, our Emergency Management Coordinator to learn the ropes and take over as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator when Harold retires.

If interested in more information about this position and its responsibilities, please contact Sharon Norris at the Township Office by phone or email.

### **Township Logo Contest**

Franklin Township is looking for a logo designed to reflect this community. It will be used on its stationary, website, and in mailings.

We are asking the talented residents of this community to submit designs for consideration. We would like the logo to incorporate the Township's rural character, natural resources, and/or historic structures.

Please send your designs to Sharon Norris at the Township Office by US mail or email.

### **Summer 2012 Newsletter Electronic Only**

The Summer 2012 edition of the Franklin Township newsletter will be an electronic version only. To receive this and all future Township information electronically, please send an email to: [communications@franklintownship.us](mailto:communications@franklintownship.us) with "Electronic Newsletter" in the subject line. Include your name and address in the body of the email. Your address will be removed from the mailing list and placed on the email list to receive future newsletters by email only.

To date, nearly 200 of the current 1200 households have registered for electronic newsletters. Join your neighbors in saving postage and printing costs.

The Summer 2012 electronic newsletter will be posted on the Township's website by mid-July for those who opt not to sign-up for the electronic version.

## Township Directory

### **Board of Supervisors**

John Auerbach, Chair  
Eric Brindle, Vice Chair  
Nan Latimer, Member  
Paul Overton, Member  
Penny Schenk, Member

### **Administration**

Joan McVaugh, *TOWNSHIP MANAGER/TREASURER*  
Jeffrey Eastburn, *ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP MANAGER*  
Sharon Norris, *SECRETARY*  
Eileen Rembecki, *SECRETARY (PART-TIME)*  
Duane Brady, *BUILDING INSPECTOR AND ZONING OFFICER*

### **Contact Information**

#### **In person:**

20 Municipal Lane  
Kemblesville, Pa. 19347  
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-4 pm

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

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

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

**Email:** [info@franklintownship.us](mailto:info@franklintownship.us)

**On the web:** [www.franklintownship.us](http://www.franklintownship.us)

### **Township Meetings**

*ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.*

#### **\*Supervisors' Work Session–**

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

#### **Supervisors' Board Meeting–**

3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

#### **Planning Commission–**

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm

#### **Historical Architectural Review Board–**

1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm

#### **Historical Commission–**

1st Wednesday of the month, 7 pm

#### **Open Space Committee–**

March 13, June 12 and Nov. 13, 2012, 7pm

*\* Meeting is cancelled when the monthly agenda is light or there is no mandatory business that must be concluded on this date.*

#### **Real Estate Tax Collector:**

Berkheimer Associates, 610-599-3143  
[www.hab-inc.com](http://www.hab-inc.com)

#### **Earned Income Tax Collectors:**

Keystone Collections Group  
144 Wallace Avenue  
Downingtown, PA 19335  
610-269-4402 (Customer Service)  
888-328-0558 (Employer Hotline)  
[www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com)

#### **Want more info?**

[www.franklintownship.us](http://www.franklintownship.us)

*The Franklin Township Newsletter is published by the  
Franklin Township Board of Supervisors  
and produced by Lucas Communications and Publications.*

**Franklin Township Newsletter Winter 2012**

A delivery of anti-skid and salt at the Township Office means we're ready for the next major snow storm!



In this issue learn about the Township roads and maintenance program, the problems with septic system additives, plus meet our new supervisors.

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

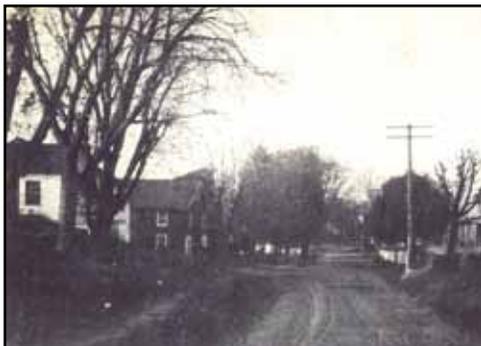
## *News from the Historical Commission and HARB*

At the January Board of Supervisors' meeting the following residents were appointed to the Franklin Township Historical Commission: Bill Dannenhauer, Dolores Hughes, Sara Beth Kohut, Paul Lagasse, Lou Mandich, Joe Neuman, and Ralph Olivier.

The following residents are members of the Historical Architectural Review Board: Keith Herrington, Paul Lagasse, Lou Mandich, Ralph Olivier, Tracey Schreiner, and Pat Talwin.

Thank you to these dedicated volunteers who have stepped forward to work on preserving the community's past.

One of the goals of the Historical Commission is to start an oral



Early 20th century photo by Ed Herbener, of Newark, Delaware identifies this road as Maryland Ave., Kemblesville PA. We now call this road Appleton Road.

Historical Archives should contact the Township Office. The photo (center) is one of a few older photos in the archives.

histories program. Older members of the community who would like to volunteer to talk to a member of the oral histories project and have their memories recorded should contact the Township Office. Once a series of oral histories is complete, they could be published into a book.

The Historical Commission also has the beginnings of an archives that includes older photos of the Township, a collection of newspaper clippings, a ledger from one of the stores in Kemblesville, and other assorted documents. Residents who have items to donate to the Franklin Township

## *Update: Goodwin Preserve Riparian Buffer*

In March of 2010, a huge community effort to create a riparian buffer for the White Clay Creek by planting trees on the Goodwin Preserve resulted in 2,450 6" to 18" seedlings being planted and surrounded with tree shelters. There were eight species of trees in the following quantities planted: 300 green ash, 300 tulip poplar, 250 black gum, 400 sycamore, 450 swamp white oak, 450 pin oak, 150 silver maple, and 150 red maple. On that day all anyone could really see where the plastic tubes lined up like soldiers in the field.

Initially, some trees planted on the island and near the banks were lost with flooding from a major storm that swept through.

Now, two growing seasons later, branches are beginning to reach out of the tubes as the trees grow and mature. Stroud Water Research is studying a subset of 500 of the trees for survivorship. According to Bern Sweeney, executive director at Stroud, after two growing seasons the data indicates a survivorship level of 88 percent. "This is terrific," he says. "The outlook is quite optimistic to having a canopy of trees over the riparian areas and the creek itself in about 10 to 12 years."

Sweeney says at the time of the analysis last September, the trees had grown to between three and eleven feet tall depending on location and species. The tree shelters seem to be working very well at protecting the trees from being eaten or rubbed by white tail deer and promoting substantial vertical growth.

"This new forest will provide a wonderful array of 'ecosystem services' to the White Clay Creek," says Sweeney. The White Clay Creek is part of the National Wild and Scenic River network.

The key services provided by the new forest will be twofold. First it will help in improving the ability of the area to intercept and process nutrients, sediments, and other unwanted substances associated with human activities on the landscape from moving into the creek. Also it will help in improving the habitat features of the creek (temperature, stream width, light levels, velocity) so that the creek can support diverse, productive, and more natural aquatic communities (bacteria, algae, insects, fish) capable of helping the stream itself to process contaminants and substances and keep them from moving downstream.



# Franklin Road Project Status

