

# *Annual Report* 2015

## LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP

PLANT ROOTS. GROW FUTURES

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



# 2015: A LOOK BACK

Throughout 2015, the Board of Supervisors worked closely with staff to maintain the Township's solid financial status. The budget for the year held expenditures while maintaining service levels and by the end of 2015, revenues and expenditures combined to eliminate a budgeted \$407,890 deficit. The year closed with a \$517,109 surplus.

The Board maintained our focus on the Township's infrastructure and capital needs, implementing technology upgrades, replacing aging Public Works equipment and continuing our road reconstruction program. Roads resurfaced were Eaglstream Drive, Collegetown Road (between Township Line Road and River Road), Sunnyside Avenue (between Farmhouse Drive and Fifth Street, and Woodland Avenue (from Miami Avenue to Trooper Road). Additionally, improvements to Township parks included resurfacing of the basketball court and new fencing on both the basketball and tennis courts at Eagleville Park.

An ongoing problem intersection received attention in 2015. Stops signs were installed to create a multi-way stop to improve safety at the intersection of Eagleville Road, Sunnyside Avenue and Pinetown Road. The intersection had been the subject of numerous traffic studies and intermediate safety measures had been taken over the years. Another problem intersection is the focus of a multi-modal state grant that was awarded to the Township for the realignment of the Eagleville Road-Park Avenue-Crawford Road intersection. The Township received word in late 2014 that it had received the grant and has applied for a supplemental grant in 2015. The project is in the early planning stages.

The Township signed a four-year contract with the Lower Providence Police Officers Association – the result of diligent work and a cooperative spirit by all involved. In June, the Board appointed Lt. Stanley Turtle to the position of Deputy Police Chief in anticipation of the retirement of Chief Francis "Bud" Carroll in December. The appointment allowed for a seamless transition and the continuation of the department's commitment to excellence and community-focused law enforcement. Chief Carroll joined the Lower Providence Township Police Department in 1984 and had served as Chief since 2000. A much-respected leader, he positioned the department at the forefront of local law enforcement to include professional accreditation.

Business development remained a high priority in 2015. The Township's efforts to attract and retain businesses received a boost from the completion of the state's Route 422 interchange improvement project. The new interchange allows for full access to US 422 and Route 363 (Trooper Road), with ramps leading in all directions, and provides commuters with improved access to the Park Pointe at Lower Providence Business Park.

Throughout this 2015 Annual Report, you will find additional highlights of the work done on behalf of the Lower Providence Township community. I'd like to express my gratitude to the Township staff and volunteers for their hard work, to my fellow Supervisors for their dedication and leadership, and to the residents and businesses for their support.

*Jason Sorgini*  
2015 Chairman  
Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors



# 2015 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**Jason Sorgini**  
Chairman



**Patrick Duffy**  
Vice Chairman



**Colleen Eckman**



**Don Thomas**



**Jill Zimmerman**

## 2015 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

### **AUDITORS**

Timothy O'Connell, Chairman  
Mary Ralston, Vice Chairwoman  
Marie Dotts, Secretary

### **Library Board**

Catherine Fennell, President  
Jennifer Gambino, Vice President  
Ben Simkin, Treasurer  
Mary Shaw, Secretary  
Marie Altieri  
M. Joseph Clement  
David Nawrocki  
*Don Thomas –Board of Supervisors Liaison*

### **Municipal Authority**

Christopher DiPaolo, Chairman  
James Donahue, Vice Chairman  
W. Douglas Hager  
Don Thomas

### **ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Thomas Borai, Chairman  
Kathie Eskie, Vice Chairwoman  
Joyce Cluley  
Gail Hager  
Robert Hardt  
Patricia Alzamora, alternate  
Joseph Pucci, alternate

### **Sewer Authority**

Fred Walker, Chairman  
William Stanczak, Vice Chairman  
Robert Tschoepe, Treasurer  
Catherine Beyer, Assistant Treasurer  
Charles Rose, Secretary  
*Jason Sorgini , Board of Supervisors Liaison*

### **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

Beth Ann Mazza, Chairwoman  
William Wurtz, Vice Chairman  
Erin DiPaolo  
Charlotte Mandracchia  
J.P. Mascaro  
John Neilson Jr.  
George Ozorowski  
Zach Bodek, student representative  
Jessica McNally, student representative  
Carina Tse, student representative  
*Patrick Duffy and Colleen Eckman, Board of Supervisors Liaisons*

### **Planning Commission**

Kristina O'Donnell, Chairwoman  
Mark Kuberski, Vice Chairman  
David Atkins  
Harold Baird  
William D. Brooke Jr.  
Michael Comroe  
Virginia Kricun  
Susan LaPenta  
Naomi Satterwhite  
*Patrick Duffy and Jill Zimmerman, Board of Supervisors Liaisons*

### **UCC Appeals Board**

M. Steven Gillan  
Richard Firth  
Robert Heil

### **Vacancy Board**

Gloria Corcoran

# FINANCE

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Finance Department can be categorized into three basic functions: Formulating and recommending financial, tax and fiscal policies; enforcing Township tax code ordinances; and maintaining the central accounting and reporting system. To further these objectives, the staff processes and analyzes financial data so that it can be effectively used by the Board of Supervisors as a tool for Township-wide decision-making .

## 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

For the fourth consecutive year, the Township realized a year-end General Fund surplus and, in addition, turned around a budgeted deficit. Sound fiscal policies and rigorous oversight, coupled with revenues from earned income taxes and real estate transfer taxes, kept the Township on solid financial footing. The performance earned the Township an AA2 credit rating from Moody's and upgraded the Standard and Poors rating two steps to AA stable.

- By the end of 2015, revenues and expenditures combined to eliminate a budgeted \$407,890 deficit and year closed with a \$517,109 surplus.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR REAL ESTATE TAXES

The real estate tax bill is levied by three different taxing authorities: Lower Providence Township, Methacton School District and Montgomery County. **Of the total real estate tax bill, 85% goes to Methacton School District, 10% goes to Montgomery County, and 5% comes to the Township.**

The amount of the real estate tax millage is approved each year by the governing bodies of those authorities. A millage is calculated as \$1 of tax on every \$1000 of a property's assessed value.

### 2015 Real Estate Tax Rates

#### Lower Providence Township

General Fund	.905 mills
Library Fund	.345 mills
Debt Service Fund	.276 mills
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund	.241 mills

#### Montgomery County

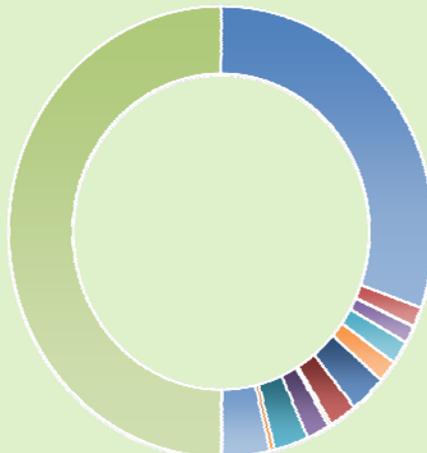
3.152 mills

#### Methacton School District

27.90 mills

## 2015 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

REVENUES		EXPENSES	
REAL ESTATE TAXES	1,436,995	LEGISLATIVE & EXECUTIVE	515,584
LOCAL ENABLING TAXES	5,805,183	FINANCE & TAX COLLECTION	242,124
FEES & PERMITS	568,000	LEGAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES	191,500
FINES	109,400	GENERAL GOVERNMENT-BUILDINGS/TECHNOLOGY	352,894
INTEREST	3,000	POLICE	3,330,278
RENTS	23,800	FIRE & AMBULANCE	486,890
FEDERAL GRANTS	8,000	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	351,738
STATE GRANTS	50,000	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & SAFETY	15,810
STATE SHARED REVENUES	527,359	DONATIONS	5,500
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	27,100	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE	1,146,872
INSPECTIONS	625,000	MISCELLANEOUS	70,125
MISCELLANEOUS	351,460	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & PENSION	2,893,534
FUND BALANCE FORWARD	2,214,615	INSURANCE	154,208
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>11,749,912</b>	INTERFUND TRANSFERS	186,130
		ENDING BALANCE	1,806,725
		<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>11,749,912</b>
General Fund - 01	11,749,912		
Library Fund - 04	544,992		
Solid Waste Fund -07	17,928		
Traffic Impact Fund -18	476,576		
Debt Service Fund - 20	647,985		
Sinking Fund - 21	603,301		
Capital Projects Fund - 30	1,072,342		
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund - 31	808,911		
Parks & Recreation Capital Reserve Fund -33	95,020		
Liquid Fuels Fund - 35	684,197		
Unrestricted Capital Fund - 39	1,004,666		
Tree Fund - 40	142,077		
Self Insurance Fund - 55	1,389,733		
Equipment Replacement Fund -70	29,433		
Summary for All Funds	<u>19,267,073</u>		



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Lower Providence Township Police Department is a professional, progressive, community oriented law enforcement organization committed to making the Township a good place to live, work and play. The department consists of 31 police officers, two civilian dispatchers and a part-time evidence clerk.

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### ACTIVITY

- Police Dispatch logged 18,091 during 2015, a decrease from the 20,764 logged during 2014.
- Officers responded to 11,592 calls for service, a decrease from the 12,013 that were handled in 2014.
- There were 11,340 Incident Reports prepared and submitted, which was a decrease from the 12,335 that were submitted in 2014.
- Officers stopped 5638 vehicles in 2015, which was an increase from the 5,186 that were stopped in 2014. As a result of those vehicle stops, there were 1,617 traffic citations issued, a decrease from the 1,686 issued in 2014.
- There were 159 non-traffic citations filed for summary violations of the Crimes Code and Township Ordinances, which reflected a decrease from the 211 that were filed in 2014.
- There were 752 accident investigations conducted, which was a decrease from the 795 that were investigated in 2014.
- The department responded to 752 alarms a decrease from the 858 responses in 2014.

### CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- There were 298 criminal arrests in 2015, which represented a decrease from 303 in 2014.
- There were 322 Part I Crimes reported in 2015 with a clearance rate of 39%.
- There were 630 Part II Crimes reported with a clearance rate of 59%.

### PROJECTS

- Continuation of the K9 program
- Continuation of the School Resource Officer Program
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Junior Police Academy
- Multijurisdictional assistance for the Papal visit in September

## PERSONNEL

### New Hires:

Officer Joseph McCreary was hired in January.  
Officer Devon Auge was hired in May.  
Officer Ryan Gill was hired in October.

### Retirements:

Sergeant Keith P. Gordon retired in October.  
Chief Francis L. Carroll and  
Corporal Thomas A. Momme retired in December.

### Promotions:

Sergeant Matthew L. Kuhnert was promoted in December.



**CHIEF RETIRES** - Francis "Bud" Carroll, right, accepts congratulations from Board of Supervisors Chairman Jason Sorgini on his retirement after 31 years with the Township. Carroll joined the department in March 1984 and had served as Police Chief since 2000. A much-respected leader, Chief Carroll's commitment to excellence positioned the department at the forefront of local law enforcement to include professional accreditation.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HERO COP PROGRAM** - Members of the Lower Providence Township Police Department and fellow law enforcement officers from across Montgomery County are shown at a ceremony held in April to dedicate a plaque to Lower Providence Township Chief John J. Culp. Chief Culp died in the line of duty in 1963 and served as the Township's first full-time police chief. The ceremony was part of the Montgomery County Hero Cop Program that honors police officers who have been killed or died in the line of duty. The plaque hangs outside police department entrance.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Planning, Zoning, Building Code, and Code Enforcement functions of the Township are consolidated under the Community Development Department. This year the Department focused on coordinating efforts across functions and with other Township departments, in an effort to provide more efficient and seamless services to Township residents and business operators.

## PLANNING

### • Conditional Use Hearings

- CU-15-01, Germantown Pike – Stoneridge Acquisitions – Townhomes at Evansburg
- CU-15-02, 3919 Beth Drive – John Pumo

### •DeMinimus Plans

- DU-15-01, 400 N Park Avenue – Valley Crest

### • Land Developments

- LD-13-05, Trooper Road – Audubon Square V - update
- LD-15 -01, 1000 Adams Avenue- Tierpoint
- LD-15-02, 37 Crawford Road - Crawford Subdivision – sketch plan
- LD-15-03, 2857 Egypt Road – Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club
- LD-15-04, 2600 Ridge Pike – Shaya Trooper – Dunkin Donuts
- LD-15-05, 903 S Park Avenue - Anderko Custom Builders
- LD-15-06, 100 Eagleville Road – Eagleville Hospital
- LD-15-07, 2759 Woodland Avenue – Mascaro Ball Fields

### • Subdivisions

- S-14-03, 18 Pheasant – Sycamore Farms – lot line change
- S-15-01, Cross Keys Road – Stoneridge Acquisitions – Village at Evansburg
- S-15-02, 3819 Landis Mill – HTC – Landis Mill Estates
- Subdivision ordinance amendment concerning sidewalk standards

### • Zoning Text Amendments

- ZT-15-02, Recreation Overlay
- ZT-15-03, PBO Residential
- ZT-15-04, VC Drive Thru
- ZT-15-05, Zoning Ordinance Clean-up proposal
- ZT-15-06, Zoning Ordinance Free-standing Solar

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Multiple new businesses
- Collaboration with others on the Business Development Committee

*The Planning Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month (2016 exceptions: Nov. 16 and Dec. 21).*

*The Zoning Hearing Board meets the fourth Thursday of each month (2016 exceptions: Nov. 22 and Dec. 22).*

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

- 307 Service Requests addressed and 256 closed
- 1591 Issued Permits
- Inspections performed
  - 299 Building
  - 217 Electrical
  - 13 Fire Suppression
  - 138 Mechanical
  - 140 Plumbing
  - 273 Resale Permits – 20 Commercial/253 Residential
  - 210 Trash Certificates
  - 222 Zoning Permits
  - 14 Alarm
  - 65 Road Opening

## ZONING

- 11 Zoning Hearing Board Appeals filed
- Policy Committee continued to work on updating ordinances, including work on the Ridge Pike West initiative. The initiative is looking at potential redevelopment and growth in the area along Ridge Pike between Level/Evansburg Road and the Perkiomen Bridge. Details can be found at <http://www.lowerprovidence.org/RidgePikeCorridor.htm> and in minutes from the Planning Commission meetings at <http://www.lowerprovidence.org/minutes.htm/>
- Subdivision and Land Development “clean-up” and International Property Maintenance update ordinances were passed

## CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

### Highlights

- Woods at Providence
- Shannondell Meadows II - \$29.9M
- Shannondell RB-10 - \$20M



# PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is responsible for a wide range of duties and services including snow/ice removal during the winter months, year-round roadway repairs, and vehicle, equipment and building maintenance. In addition, the department is responsible for traffic signal repairs, street lights and all storm sewers. Currently, the Township owns and services 89.31 miles of roadway.

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Each time the Public Works Department applies brine to the Township roadways in advance of inclement weather, over 14,000 gallons of brine are used. In 2015, crews were called out 19 times to salt or plow the roads.

### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance is vital to keep all infrastructure functioning properly.

- 150 street signs were repaired or replaced
- 50 storm sewer inlets were cleaned
- 48 storm sewer inlets were reconstructed
- 6 roadways were crack sealed
- Street sweeping was completed on all Township roadways

### STORM SEWER REHABILITATION

- Routine maintenance of storm water inlets, including the rebuilding of several storm water boxes
- Gunite repair work to storm water pipes on Visitation Road, Pinetree Road, Pinetown Road, and Featherbed Lane

### ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

- Oversaw road reconstruction on Collegeville Road, Sunnyside Avenue, Woodland Avenue, Eaglestream Drive and Regency Drive
- Oversaw paving work of PA American Water Company on Pinetown Road, Sunnyside Avenue, Belmont Avenue, Hillside Avenue, First Street, Second Street, and Church Road where they had installed a new water pipe
- Oversaw PennDOT paving on Egypt Road

#### To report a concern:

To report any concern, such as a street light not working, downed sign, an inlet covered with debris, or a pothole, please email the Public Works Director: [jprimus@lowerprovidence.org](mailto:jprimus@lowerprovidence.org)



Public Works crew members complete repairs to an inlet.



The Township's road reconstruction program continued in 2015, repaving five roadways.

# PARKS & RECREATION

Many safety improvements to our parks, on-going maintenance to the parks and open space areas, as well as the coordination of the Township's many community events and programs kept the department busy throughout 2015. For Parks and Recreation information or to register for programs, visit [www.lptrec.com](http://www.lptrec.com) or call us at 610-635-3543.

## SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

### CAMP PERKIOMY

- 190 campers in Kindergarten through Grade 5 registered at 3 sites - Audubon, Arrowhead & Eagleville Elementary schools
- 21 staff members: 1 director, 3 site supervisors, 6 group leaders, 11 counselors
- 7 week program, 8:00am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday
- 70 registered for extended-day option

### LIL' PERKIOMY

- 37 campers ages 4 & 5 registered
- 3 two-week sessions with maximum of 15 campers per session
- Located at Eagleville Park Pavilion from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- 3 staff members: 1 site supervisor, 2 counselor

### PERKIOMY TRAILBLAZERS

- 85 campers in grades 5 - 8 registered at 2 sites – Eagleville Park's Shoemaker House & Arrowhead Elementary School
- 7 week program, 8:00am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday
- 16 registered for extended day option
- 8 staff members: 2 site supervisors, 6 counselors

### COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM

- (10) 13-15 year olds learned what it takes to be a counselor at Camp Perkiomy

### BUS TRIPS

- 14 day-trips offered to multiple locations
- 151 residents attended

### RECREATIONAL / SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

- 6 sessions of recreational activities offered (sports, music, exercise)

## DISCOUNT AMUSEMENT & MOVIE TICKETS

- 1,282 summer amusement tickets sold
- 115 winter ski lift tickets sold
- 2,110 discount Regal movie tickets sold
- 1,040 discount Movie Tavern tickets sold

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Thanks to our many corporate sponsors, the Parks and Recreation Department is able to provide special events to the community at no cost.**

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Independence Day Fireworks & Concert
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Tree Lighting
- 18,000 plus total attendees

## CARING AND SHARING

- Made possible by the generosity of residents and local businesses – thank you!
- 10 Thanksgiving dinner baskets were provided for Township families
- 10 Holiday meals and gifts were provided for Township families
- Year-round food collection (bins located in Administration Building Lobby)
- Collection of winter coats & gloves (bins located in Administration Building Lobby)

## PERMITS

- 10 seasonal permits issued for use of ball fields
- 56 pavilion rentals at Eagleville & Eskie Parks
- 4 Level Road Schoolhouse rentals

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

**Congratulations and thanks go out to our local Eagle Scouts whose hard work culminated with these projects:**

- Evansburg Point Park – Construction and installation of an Information Kiosk, *Christopher Littrell, Troop 267*
- Redtail Park – Construction and installation of an Information Kiosk, *Kevin Ouyang, Troop 313*



# HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department is responsible for a wide variety of areas including personnel, policies, training, labor relations, safety, workers compensation, medical and commercial lines of insurance.

## INSURANCE MANAGEMENT

- \$42,275 in savings on renewal premiums over expiring premiums for all lines of insurance

## GROUP HEALTH

- Administration of medical, dental, life, short-term and long-term disability insurance

## WORKER'S COMPENSATION

- Administration of workers compensation insurance coverage and claims
- Commercial Lines
- Administration of property, public officials and police liability, and automobile insurance coverage and associated claims

## PENSION PLAN ADMINISTRATION

- Administration of Township pension plans
- Administration of post-retirement medical benefits plan for police officers
- Administration of voluntary 457 deferred compensation plan

## SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Township maintains a Safety Committee and is instrumental in promoting a safety-first atmosphere among employees

## PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS

- Ensure compliance with all applicable mandates and internal agreements

## FINANCE

- Ongoing administration of extensive internal controls
- Comprehensive yearly financial audit
- Fixed Asset Administration

## EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- Focus on local and in-house options
- Coordination of equipment and safety training for Public Works and Parks employees

# TAX OFFICE

The tax collector is available Monday thru Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to answer your calls; except on the dates when she is collecting taxes in person. If you receive the answering machine, please leave your name, address, parcel number, and phone number so that your call can be returned. Your phone number is the most important piece of information. Every attempt will be made to return your call on the same business day; however, on busy days or days when the tax collector is collecting taxes in person, your call may be returned on the next business day.

Tax bills for County & Township RE taxes are mailed on March 1<sup>st</sup> and should be received during the first week of March. Methacton School District RE tax bills are mailed on July 1<sup>st</sup> and should be received during the first week of July. If you do not receive your tax bill by then, please contact the tax office for a replacement.

Installment plans are available for the Methacton School District RE tax bill. More information about the installment plan can be found at [www.methacton.org](http://www.methacton.org).

Payments at the end of each period (discount, flat) will be accepted as long as they are postmarked by the last due date. If you are mailing a payment during the last few days of a period, please have the post office hand stamp your envelope with the postmark.

## Important 2016 Information

**The in-person tax collection location has changed. The new location is: 3953 Ridge Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426.**

This is Talone Insurance and the tax collector will be in an office on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Please do not arrive before the time when the tax collector is scheduled to be there as there is limited parking and there is no seating area. Please prepare your checks in advance of arriving. An insert with this information was included with the tax bill and this information is printed on your tax bill. Please do not call Talone Insurance for information as they are only the landlord.

Dates and times for the 2016 County & Township in-person collections are as follows:

6/22, 6/24, 6/28, 6/30	11 am to 3 pm
6/25	10 am to Noon

### OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

KIRSTEN DEAL

PO Box 7220

Audubon, PA 19407-7220

610-666-1980

[lpntaxcollector@verizon.net](mailto:lpntaxcollector@verizon.net)

[www.lowerprovidencetaxcollector.com](http://www.lowerprovidencetaxcollector.com)

# SPECIAL PROJECTS & TECHNOLOGY

In 2015, we continued attracting business to Park Pointe at Lower Providence Business Park with the addition of MRO, Anthem Events, Inc., Child and Family Focus, and Maintenance Strategies, Inc. MRO is a leader in the secure, compliant and efficient exchange of Patient Health Information (PHI) between a healthcare organization and other entities, including other providers, government agencies, payers, third-party requesters and patients. Anthem Events, Inc. is a marketing services provider that provides brand promotional opportunities that lead to visibility and loyalty for their clients. Child and Family Focus is a non-profit organization whose goal is to offer Family-Based Services, Respite Care, Therapeutic Foster Care Services and Community Based Mental Health Support Services to children and youth. Maintenance Strategies, Inc. focuses on equipment asset management and maintenance optimization. These four companies provided 190 new employees to Lower Providence Township.

In 2015, Lower Providence Township welcomed 22 new businesses into the Township that added 136 new employees. Some of the highlights were the opening of Keller's Family Market at the former Genuardi grocery store location in the Audubon Shopping Center and Fire N Fresh, a new fresh food concept at the former WAWA Ridge Pike location. Fire N Fresh specializes in pizza, sandwiches and salad all made from fresh ingredients.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's project to improve the U.S. Route 422/Route 363 (Trooper Road) Interchange completed the implementation of the westbound on-ramp and the eastbound off-ramp in 2015. The interchange now provides the complete access to the Park Pointe at Lower Providence Business Park from both the east and west along Route 422, no longer requiring commuters to exit in Oaks and travel local roads to the business park.



Members of the Township's business community shared their perspectives on economic development with Township officials at a roundtable discussion on April 29. Hosted by the Business Development Committee, the event was attended by some 30 business owners/operators, brokers and real estate agents.

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 29 new businesses licenses were issued
- 326 new jobs created as a result of all new businesses.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Meeting Rebroadcasts on Community

#### Access Cable Channel

- 23 Board of Supervisor meetings
- 8 Zoning Hearing Board meetings
- Residents who subscribe to cable TV may view the rebroadcasts the week following the meeting on Comcast channel 28 and Verizon channel 42. The meetings are rebroadcast on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays at 1am, 9am, and 7pm

#### Meeting Rebroadcasts Online

- Working with Township's video recording vendor, meeting rebroadcasts have been made available online at, [www.municipalmeeting.com/channel/Lower-Providence-Township/1](http://www.municipalmeeting.com/channel/Lower-Providence-Township/1), for viewing anytime by residents at no cost to the Township

#### Santa's Hotline Phone Operation and Setup

- Assistance provided for Lower Providence Optimist Club's annual Santa hotline

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations Department is responsible for providing timely and accurate information to the Township's residents and business community utilizing a variety of communication media. Addressing citizen concerns is a top priority. Additionally, the department serves as Township's Open Records Office.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Annual Report, Newsletter, Website & Social Media

- The Township's Annual Report earned a first-place award in the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) state-wide communication contest.
- Advertising sponsorship continued to cover the cost of newsletter production, allowing the printed publication to be provided to residences and businesses
- Website - [www.lowerprovidence.org](http://www.lowerprovidence.org), provided updates, event information and alerts as needed
- Social media - Facebook and Twitter continued to grow in importance as communication tools

### Emergency Notification System

- Enabled authorized Township officials to send messages to thousands of residents, businesses and local agencies via a single phone call

### Cable Community Access Channel

- Comcast Channel 28 and Verizon Channel 42
- Requests from community organizations processed and posted
- Board of Supervisors and Zoning Hearing Board meetings rebroadcast

### Media Relations

- Releases prepared and distributed: Township news; Police/Emergency Management; Parks & Recreation events and programming; and Business Development

## ADMINISTRATION

- Responsible for wide range of administrative duties, including Board of Supervisor informational packets for Board meetings, scheduling, correspondence, generation of Resolutions; maintenance of Resolution, Minute and Ordinance books

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Participated at Senior Expo hosted by Rep. Mike Vereb
- Coordinated the Business Courtyard at the Township's annual Community Fall Festival
- Worked with Parks and Recreation staff to plan and publicize Caring and Sharing food and clothing drive and Angel Tree Program
- Served on Annual Tree Lighting and On Your Marc (benefit 5K run) committees

## OPEN RECORDS OFFICE

- 928 Requests for Information were logged and processed, 811 were requests for Police Reports
- On-going research on precedent and PA Office of Open Records determinations

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Member of Business Development Committee
- Assisted with planning and publicity for Business Roundtable luncheon discussion held on April 29. Members of the Lower Providence business community shared their perspectives on economic development with Township officials and exchange ideas.



The Township's community outreach efforts include recognition by the Board of Supervisors of outstanding achievements by individuals and groups. In 2015, this included the Board's recognition of the Audubon Recreation Association's 10 & Under Softball Team for their participation in the Babe Ruth Softball World Series.

# LOWER PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

## MISSION

The Lower Providence Community Library provides the highest quality library services to its patrons of all ages. The materials, resources, services and facility meet community needs for education, recreation, technology, and cultural enrichment.

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Building renovation plans and technology were in the forefront in 2015. A design plan was completed to reconfigure existing space to support community requests and library needs, with renovations to begin in 2016. The plan features:

- Relocation of the Young Adult area (completed)
- A cyber café with coffee and vending for beverages and snacks
- Two enclosed study/meeting rooms for small groups or individuals
- Redesign of the Circulation Desk to incorporate the Reference Desk into a central service area
- New furnishings for the public computer area providing more space and privacy

Technology capacity and training were increased with the award of a \$20,951 federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

This grant provided:

- 6 laptop computers
- Microsoft Office, Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements software
- 3 year subscription to Lynda.com (online technology classes & tutorials)
- A series of instructor-led technology classes held in the library

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015 INCLUDE:

- 185,785 visitors to the library, an average of 3,573 visitors per week
- 236,141 items borrowed
- A second self-checkout station was added
- A digital message board was purchased to display program and event information

## RESOURCES

The Library collection totals 52,908 physical items and 22,168 e-books and downloadable audiobooks in OverDrive. There are 104 digital magazine titles available through Zinio and an additional 50,000+ e-books available through Freading. Library patrons had access to 25 electronic resources. Those purchased with local funding and federal grant funding for Lower Providence residents include Lynda.com (grant), Consumer Reports, Morningstar Investment Research Center, Novelist, Gale Virtual Reference Center, and Freading. Ten desktop computers and eleven laptops with internet access were available for use.

## FUNDING

The Library is partially funded by allocations from the state (\$70,031) and from Lower Providence Township real estate taxes (\$545,355). The remaining operating funds are raised by the Library through fundraising events, grants, donations, interest, fines, and fees (\$193,892). Total income in 2015 was \$809,277. The Library spent \$30.70 per capita for each Lower Providence Township resident, \$21.44 of which came from local tax dollars. Total expenditures were \$780,906. The Library is partially funded by allocations from the state (\$70,031) and from Lower Providence Township real estate taxes (\$545,355). The remaining operating funds are raised by the Library through fundraising events, grants, donations, interest, fines, and fees (\$193,892). Total income in 2015 was \$809,277. The Library spent \$30.70 per capita for each Lower Providence Township resident, \$21.44 of which came from local tax dollars. Total expenditures were \$780,906.

## FRIENDS OF LOWER PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Friends of the Lower Providence Community Library supported the Library through volunteer work and fundraising efforts.

- Raised \$15,000 for the Library through used book sales, basket raffles, supermarket receipt refund programs and calendar sales.
- Assisted with the Annual Wine Tasting
- Sponsored the Teen Advisory Board, whose members assisted with fundraising events, children's programs, and holiday decorating

The Friends' donation was used to fund children's and teen programs and purchase a self-checkout station, a digital message board, and many new library materials, including museum passes and Kindles.

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Under the leadership of Sandrah Moles, the Children's and Teen Department hosted 531 programs attended by 13,543 children, teens, and adults
- The Adult Department, under the direction of Barbara Loewengart, offered 528 programs with an attendance of 5,056.
- There were two fundraising activities—the 15th Annual Wine Tasting in March and the Murder Mystery Dinner in October

## STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

The Library's dedicated staff includes 3 full-time and 16 part-time workers. In addition, 150 volunteers contributed a combined total of 2,892 hours of service working in the library. Volunteers were recognized for their service at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic hosted by the Library Board of Trustees.



Visit the Library online at: [www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org](http://www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org).

# SEWER AUTHORITY

**20 PARKLANE DRIVE  
EAGLEVILLE, PA 19403**

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
(610) 539-6161  
Fax: (610) 539-4795

**AFTER-HOUR**

**EMERGENCIES:**  
1-800-379-5713

## Quarterly Sewer Rental Bills

You can now receive your bill by e-mail. If you are interested in this service, call the Sewer Authority for information. In addition, changes have been made to the sewer rental bill. Your bill will now clearly show what you pay the Township Sewer Authority for the collection and transportation or conveyance of sewage to the treatment plant and what you pay the Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority for the actual treatment of the sewage.

The Township Sewer Authority maintains over 90 miles of sanitary sewer lines, approximately 1200 manholes, and a total of 17 sewage pumping stations located throughout the township. On average, 3.5 million gallons of sewage per day is collected and sent to the treatment plant.

## Inflow and Infiltration in the Sanitary Sewer System

During 2015, the Sewer Authority continued with the I/I Abatement Program. I/I represents Inflow and Infiltration, the process by which unwanted volumes of clean water enter the sanitary sewage collection system creating excessive flow in the system, at times resulting in the flooding of basements and overflows of manholes and sewage pumping stations, creating potential hazards, exposing us to fines from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and increasing our operations and

maintenance cost.

In an effort to eliminate I/I, the SA is inspecting and making repairs to sanitary sewer lines and manholes. The SA is currently seeking grants to help finance its continuation of this work.

In addition to this repair work, inspection of homes and businesses is continuing. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that there are no sump pumps, floor drains, downspouts or yard drains connected to the system. It is estimated that the elimination of I/I from private sources such as homes and businesses can alone account for a reduction in flow during a 2-hour rain event of 600 gallons from each property with these types of illegal connections. This is normally a simple fix for the property owner, plugging a drain or re-routing a sump pump discharge line or rain gutter downspout. Please be aware, you do not have to wait for an inspection in order to re-route these pipes and remove these illegal connections from the system. To date, we have inspected over 3200 properties and still have over 4000 to inspect. **Inspection notices will be posted on your sewer rental bill. Please contact the SA as soon as your notice is posted.** Your immediate response saves a great deal of money that would otherwise be spent on additional notices and certified mail.

The SA is very pleased with the results of its efforts over the past years. With additional repairs to the system and with your help and cooperation with the inspections, we're confident that we can reduce flow during periods of heavy rain to acceptable levels. We are making great strides toward the removal of I/I and we want to thank everyone involved for their hard work, dedication, support and cooperation.

*Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority Board of Directors  
Fred Walker, Chairman*

**The Sewer Authority meets at the SA Office the second  
Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.  
(Exceptions: Dec. 14 meeting will start at 5:30 p.m.)**

# ORDINANCES

- |      |  |      |  |
|------|--|------|--|
| #619 | An ordinance recognizing the authority of fire companies and emergency responders to seek reimbursement for hazardous abatement incidents, environmental incidents and fire safety and rescue responses.<br><i>Enacted February 5, 2015</i>  |      |  |
| #620 | An ordinance authorizing the participation of Lower Providence Township in the PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law.<br><i>Enacted February 5, 2015</i>  |      |  |
| #621 | An ordinance amending the provisions of Section 138-16 of the Lower Providence Township Code to add a stop intersection on Eagleville Road at the intersection of Sunnyside Avenue and Pinetown Road.<br><i>Enacted February 19, 2015</i>  |      |  |
| #622 | An ordinance amending section 143-8, Zoning Map of Lower Providence Township, by rezoning Montgomery County tax parcel 43-00-02815-02-2 from VC Village Commercial District to R-3 Residential District; and rezoning Montgomery county tax parcel 43-00-02815-01-3 from PBO Professional and Business Office District to R-3 Residential District.<br><i>Enacted March 19, 2015</i> | #624 | An ordinance amending Chapter 106 of the Lower Providence Township Code, Parks, so as to comply with Act 192 of 2014.<br><i>Enacted March 19, 2015</i>   |
| #623 | An ordinance amending Chapter 143 of the Lower Providence Township Code providing for redevelopment of industrial sites, permitting townhouse uses within the Industrial District by Conditional Use.<br><i>Enacted March 19, 2015</i>   | #625 | An ordinance authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt in the aggregate principal amount of \$140,000 and the award of a qualified interest rate management agreement.<br><i>Enacted April 16, 2015</i>                       |
|      |  | #626 | An ordinance authorizing the issuance of non-electoral debt for a five-year interest free loan from Montgomery County in the amount of \$179,000 for the purchase of emergency radio equipment.<br><i>Enacted November 19, 2015</i>  |
|      |  | #627 | An ordinance authorizing incurrence of lease rental debt to secure Guaranteed Sewer Revenue Notes, 2016 Series in the aggregate principal amount of \$4,245,000.<br><i>Enacted November 19, 2015</i>                                 |
|      |  | #628 | An ordinance amending the codified ordinances of Lower Providence Township adopting the 2009 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code as the Township's Property Maintenance Code.<br><i>Enacted December 17, 2015</i> |