



Lower Providence Township

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Dear Resident,

The Grange Avenue Bridge Replacement Project has been a 12-year long effort to replace a deteriorating bridge and correct a dangerous S-Curve. In April 2004, the Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors approved ordinance 512 authorizing the re-alignment of the roadway in the area of the dangerous S-Curve.

On May 17, 2004, six local residents and The Society for the Preservation of the Evansburg District (SPEHD) organization filed a Petition for Review in Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas in order to block the adoption of ordinance 512.

The legal action caused Lower Providence Township to expend approximately **\$78,952.00** in litigation expenses to defend the ordinance. In addition due to the delay in starting the project, the township is faced with escalating costs, which is estimated by the township structural engineer to be in excess of **\$200,000.00** and rising. In total this delay has cost the taxpayers an additional **\$278,952.00**.

On April 15, 2005, the Montgomery County Board of View rendered their decision in favor of Lower Providence Township with a recommendation to dismiss all remaining exceptions filed by the petitioners. In effect, declaring that Lower Providence Township had acted properly and correctly in its on-going efforts to improve the safety of North Grange Avenue.

On May 5, 2005, Petitioners, Edgar Bright and Sherri Bright, Scott Fraser and Megan Fraser, James R. Lynch, Jr. and Jo Ann T. Lynch and The Society for the Preservation of the Evansburg District (SPEHD) filed an appeal in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas. This appeal will result in the Grange Avenue Bridge Replacement Project being delayed further and result in additional costs above the **\$278,952.00** already expended.

The Society for the Preservation of The Historic Evansburg District (SPEHD) organization, listed on the appeal, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The SPEHD website lists their officers as, President Christopher J. Di Paolo (**currently running as a candidate in the May primary for Lower Providence Township Supervisor**), Vice President James R. Lynch, Esq., Treasurer Eric C. Neff, Esq., Secretary Scott Fraser and Director Paul Heinegg. Three of the five SPEHD officers reside on N. Grange Avenue.

This appeal will result in additional cost to taxpayers as it works its way through the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas. Additional litigation costs are estimated to be in the tens-of-thousands. Also at risk is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation grant funding of approximately \$1,000,000.00.

The Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors' main concern is and has always been the safety of residents who make use of Grange Avenue and the access for emergency response vehicles. The most recent auto accident on Grange Avenue occurred on March 30, 2005.

Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors

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