

 LOWER
PROVIDENCE
TOWNSHIP EST. 1805

2014
ANNUAL REPORT



www.lowerprovidence.org

2014: A LOOK BACK

As a Township of the Second Class, Lower Providence is governed by five elected residents who serve on the Board of Supervisors. In January, Patrick Duffy was sworn in as the newest member of our Board. Together we made the Township's financial health a top priority in 2014. We worked closely with staff to build on the economic momentum that was gained in 2013. The budget for the year held expenditures, while maintaining service levels. Additionally, the Board recognized the importance of addressing the Township's aging infrastructure and capital needs. In 2014, the Township made technology upgrades, replaced three police cars, and completed much-needed road resurfacing. Deteriorated roadways repaired included Crawford Road, Surrey Lane, and portions of Rittenhouse Road and Church Road. Looking ahead, planning is well underway for future road projects.

The 2014 budget included a tax increase that provides a significant boost in the operating budget for the Lower Providence Community Library. Prior to 2014, the tax millage rate had remained the same for the past 10 years despite the challenges of an ever-changing economy.

As a result of a contract approved by the Board of Supervisors in December 2014, effective March 2015, residents are now paying some \$42 less per year for trash and recycling. The reduced fee comes with no reduction in service and the lower price will remain unchanged for the next five years.

At the very start of the year, the Township got taste of things to come as close to 10 inches of snow fell in two days in early January. The "Polar Vortex" and several more snowstorms followed. A devastating ice storm on February 5 crippled the region. Our dedicated crews met all of the challenges - brining, salting and plowing to keep the roadways safe and passable. In July, it was Hurricane Arthur's turn, forcing the cancellation of the annual Independence Day celebration – look for a bigger and better show in 2015! I want to thank our residents and businesses for their patience, understanding and resiliency during all of these events.

Once again, there was news from the transportation front that affected the Township. The state's \$16.8 million Route 422 interchange improvement project moved closer to completion. With this project, a full interchange will be constructed at Route 363 (Trooper Road) and Route 422. The Township received word in late 2014 that it had received a multi-modal state grant for the Eagleville Road-Park Avenue-Crawford Road intersection. The proposed project would allow the Township to make safety improvements to this dangerous intersection. In October, replacement of the Arcola Road Bridge kicked off ahead of schedule after a determined effort to expedite the work by Township and county officials, state Sen. John Rafferty and state Rep. Mike Vereb. The deteriorating bridge over the Perkiomen Creek was closed by PennDOT in August 2013 for safety reasons. The bridge replacement is expected to be completed by fall 2016.

On the following pages are highlights of the work done on behalf of the Lower Providence Township community in 2014. I'd like to extend my appreciation to the Township staff and volunteers for their efforts and to my fellow Supervisors for their dedication and leadership. My thanks, also, go to the residents and businesses for their support.

Colleen Eckman
2014 Chairwoman
Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors



District Justice Cathleen Rebar administers the oath of office to Supervisor Patrick Duffy at the 2014 reorganization meeting.

2014 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Colleen Eckman
Chairperson



Jason Sorgini
Vice Chairman



Don Thomas



Jill Zimmerman



Patrick Duffy

2014 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

AUDITORS

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

Library Board

Catherine Fennell, President
Lisa Yanak, Vice President
Eugene McCarthy / Jennifer Gambino
David Nawrocki
Mary Shaw
Anthony Pisa
Ben Simkin
Don Thomas –Board of Supervisors Liaison

Municipal Authority

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

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Nancy McFarland, Chairwoman
Joyce Cluley, Vice Chairwoman
Thomas Borai
Kathie Eskie
Robert Hardt
Gail Hager (Alternate)

Sewer Authority

Fred Walker, Chairman
Carl Buchenauer, Vice Chairman
Robert Tschoepe
Catherine Beyer
Charles Rose

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Beth Ann Mazza, Chairwoman
William Wurtz, Vice Chairman
Erin DiPaolo
Charlotte Mandracchia
John Neilson Jr.
George Ozorowski
Beth Sorgini
Cameron Jones, student representative
Jessica McNally, student representative
Patrick Duffy, Board of Supervisors Liaison

Planning Commission

Adam Supplee, Chairman
Michael Comroe, Vice Chairman
David Atkins
Harold Baird
William Brooke Jr.
Mark Kuberski
Susan LaPenta
Kristina O'Donnell
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

Expenditures presented a challenge during the year, especially in light of the fact that the Township had to contend with 17 snow events. But the staff's careful monitoring and ongoing budgetary analysis allowed for timely proactive budget reductions and adjustments. As a result, 2014 was without a doubt a strong revenue performance year for the Township.

- By the Fourth Quarter, revenues and expenditures combined to eliminate a budgeted \$911,439 deficit and 2014 ended with a \$499,907 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.

2014 Real Estate Tax Rates

Lower Providence Township

General Fund	.905 mills
Library Fund	.345 mills
Debt Service Fund	.101 mills
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund	.241 mills

Montgomery County

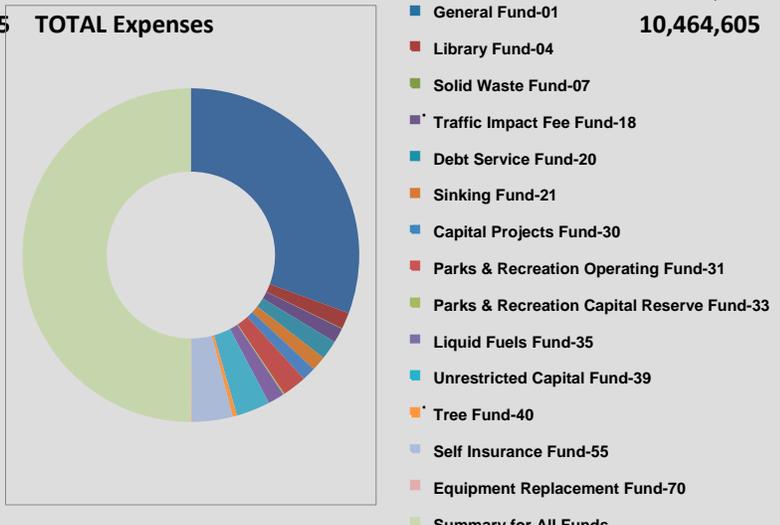
3.152 mills

Methacton School District

27.90 mills

2014 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

REVENUES		EXPENSES	
REAL ESTATE TAXES	1,427,084	LEGISLATIVE & EXECUTIVE	509,781
LOCAL ENABLING TAXES	5,338,000	FINANCE & TAX COLLECTION	247,114
FEES & PERMITS	515,000	LEGAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES	214,700
FINES	102,000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT-BUILDINGS/TECHNOLOGY	348,261
INTEREST	3,000	POLICE	3,149,080
RENTS	4,800	FIRE & AMBULANCE	469,875
STATE GRANTS	50,000	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	323,088
STATE SHARED REVENUES	528,283	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & SAFETY	4,200
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	22,250	DONATIONS	5,500
INSPECTIONS	415,235	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE	1,117,788
MISCELLANEOUS	342,782	MISCELLANEOUS	86,935
FUND BALANCE FORWARD	1,716,171	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & PENSION	2,779,985
TOTAL Revenues	10,464,605	INSURANCE	144,035
		INTERFUND TRANSFERS	259,531
		ENDING BALANCE	804,732
		TOTAL Expenses	10,464,605
General Fund - 01	10,464,605		
Library Fund - 04	541,214		
Solid Waste Fund -07	18,382		
Traffic Impact Fee Fund-18	482,443		
Debt Service Fund - 20	634,484		
Sinking Fund - 21	483,843		
Capital Projects Fund - 30	446,470		
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund - 31	795,540		
Parks & Recreation Capital Reserve Fund -33	42,000		
Liquid Fuels Fund - 35	539,036		
Unrestricted Capital Fund - 39	1,110,528		
Tree Fund - 40	146,438		
Self Insurance Fund - 55	1,328,108		
Equipment Replacement Fund -70	36,526		
Summary for All Funds	<u>17,069,617</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 and two civilian dispatchers.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

ACTIVITY

The Township Police Dispatch Center logged 20,764 during 2014, a slight increase from the 20,628 calls logged during 2013.

- Officers responded to 12,013 calls for service, an increase of 991 calls for service from the 11,022 that were handled in 2013.
- There were 12,335 Incident Reports prepared and submitted, which was an increase of 1,274 from the 11,061 that were submitted in 2013.
- Officers stopped 5,186 vehicles in 2014, which was an increase from the 5,121 that were stopped in 2013. As a result of those vehicle stops, there were 1,624 traffic citations issued, a decrease from the 1,686 issued in 2013.
- There were 211 non-traffic citations filed for summary violations of the Crimes Code and Township Ordinances, which reflected an increase from the 188 that were filed in 2013.
- There were 795 accident investigations conducted, which was an increase from the 785 that were investigated in 2013.
- The department responded to 858 alarms which was an increase from the 754 responses in 2013.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- There were 303 criminal arrests in 2014, which represented an increase from the 278 of 2013.
- There were 336 Part I Crimes reported in 2014 which was an increase from the 315 that were reported in 2013. Department personnel cleared 134 of the crimes for a clearance rate of 39.88%.
- There were 663 Part II Crimes, which was an increase from the 552 recorded in 2013. A total of 420 of the Part II Crimes were cleared for a clearance rate of 63.34%.

PROJECTS

- In June of 2014 the Lower Providence Township Police Department conducted its inaugural Junior Police Academy. The program was held over a two-day period at the Arcola Intermediate School and saw 42 participants between the ages of nine and thirteen engaged in a variety of activities. The Academy offered the cadets the opportunity to learn hands on what a police officer does on a daily basis and gave them an understanding of the service police officers provide to the public.



Cadets at the Junior Police Academy watch as their instructors conduct a mock felony car stop.

PERSONNEL

The Lower Providence Township Police Department was very fortunate during 2014 in being able to continue the Canine Unit through the procurement of two new police canines through grant funding.

- In July of 2014, Off. W. Tim Arthur began training with his canine partner, Kane, a Belgian Malinois, at Tarheel Canine Training, Inc., in Sanford, N.C. Off. Arthur and Kane were certified as a Police Patrol Canine Team and received additional training and certification in explosives detection. The full cost of the purchase of Kane and his related equipment, as well as the cost of the training of Off. Arthur and Kane as a team, were provided through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Off. Arthur and Kane assumed their patrol duties in September of 2014.



Officer Arthur and Kane

- In August of 2014, Off. Jeremy Bonner began training with his canine partner, Brutus, a German Shepherd, at Progressive K-9 Academy, LLC, in Walnutport, PA. Off. Bonner and Brutus received certification as a Police Patrol Canine Team and were additionally trained and certified in narcotics detection. The full cost of the purchase of Brutus and his related equipment as well as the cost of the training of Off. Bonner and Brutus as a team were provided through a grant from the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office. Off. Bonner and Brutus began their patrol duties in November of 2014.



Officer Bonner and Brutus

- In August of 2014, Police Canine Shadow was retired after ten years of service with his partner, Cpl. Matthew L. Kuhnert. Cpl. Kuhnert and Shadow enjoyed a remarkable time together, the length of which far exceeded the normal life cycle for a police canine team. Throughout his service to our community, Shadow distinguished himself by participating in the arrests of armed and dangerous suspects, felony and misdemeanor offenders, the detection and seizure of quantities of controlled substances and was involved in two police involved shooting incidents in which suspects fired on police. With the retirement of his canine partner, Cpl. Kuhnert transitioned to the assignment as the Accreditation Manager for the department in October of 2014.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement functions of the Township are consolidated under the Community Development Department. During the year, the department updated its comprehensive Geographical Information System (GIS) and its permitting and licensing software. With the changes, the Community Development Department is looking for a productive 2015.

PLANNING

• Conditional Use Hearings

- CU-11-01, 3481 Germantown – Terra Landscaping - Revision
- CU-14-01, 220 Summit - Sparango
- CU-14-02, Shannondell-Meadows 5.2 – Audubon Land
- CU-14-04, 357 Level - Gambone
- CU-14-06, 2600 Ridge – Dunkin Donuts

• DeMinimus Plans

- DU-14-01, 11Pechins Mill – Claycomb
- DU-14-02, Panera Bread – Audubon Square

• Land Developments

- LD-14-01, Crosskeys Homes - Madaras
- LD-14-02, McDonalds Remodel – Audubon Square
- LD-14-04, Taco Bell – Trooper and Audubon
- LD-13-04, Shannondell The Meadows Phase 5.2 – Audubon Land Development
- LD-13-05, Audubon Square 5 – Audubon Land Development

• Subdivisions

- S-09-09, 324 Level – Boyce Harris - Revision
- S-14-01, 3961 Crosskeys – Organski
- S-14-02, 3200 Ridge – KIMCO

• Zoning Text Amendments

- ZT-14-01, 3200 Ridge – KIMCO
- ZT-14-03, 2600 Ridge – Dunkin Donuts

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- 200 Service Requests addressed and 133 closed
- 583 businesses inspected.
- 1,442 Issued Permits 1,697 Inspections performed
 - 232 Building – 44 Commercial/188 Residential
 - 222 Electrical
 - 122 Mechanical
 - 119 Plumbing Permits
 - 201 Resale Permits – 20 Commercial/201 Residential
 - 191 Trash Certificates –191 Residential
 - 241 Zoning Permits
 - 12 Alarm – 2 Commercial/10 Residential
 - 82 Road Opening

ZONING

- 21 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/>

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- New businesses: 6
- Collaboration with others on the Business Development Committee



Work continued on the new home of the Lower Providence Community Center and Ambulance.

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.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Weather presented the biggest challenge to the Public Works Department in 2014. The year started off with close to 10 inches of snow in two days in early January, and the deep freeze of the Polar Vortex and numerous snowstorms followed. On February 5, the region was hit with an ice storm – the second most damaging storm in PECO’s history. All told, the Department was called out 20 times for snow and salting events.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance is vital to keep all infrastructure functioning properly.

- 2800 street signs were repaired or replaced
- 400 storm sewer inlets were cleaned
- Several storm sewer inlets were reconstructed
- 9 roadways were crack sealed
- Street sweeping was completed on all Township roadways
- Tree trimming was performed throughout the Township

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



Bringing in advance of storms continues to be an efficient method to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the road surface.

STORM SEWER REHABILITATION

- Routine maintenance of storm water inlets, including the rebuilding of several storm water boxes
- Gunitite repair work to storm water pipes on Jennifer Lane and Elizabeth Drive

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

- Oversaw road reconstruction on Crawford Road, Church Road, Surrey Lane and a portion of Rittenhouse Road. A cold in-place recycling method was used, followed by the placement of a 1½ inch overlay.
- Completed paving repair work on Nancy Lane, Catfish Lane and Arcola Road
- Oversaw paving work of PA American Water Company on Middle School Road and Appledale Road where a new water main pipe was installed



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 2014. For Parks and Recreation information or to register for programs, visit www.lowerprovidence.org or call us at 610-635-3543.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

CAMP PERKIOMY

- 189 campers registered at 3 sites - Audubon, Arrowhead & Eagleville Elementary schools
- 17 staff members: 1 director, 3 site supervisors, 6 group leaders, 7 counselors
- 7 week program, 8:00am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday
- 59 registered for extended-day option (Mon - Thurs / 4:00pm - 5:00pm)

LIL' PERKIOMY

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

PERKIOMY TRAILBLAZERS

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

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM

- (11) 13-15 year olds learned what it takes to be a counselor at Camp Perkiomy

BUS TRIPS

- 12 day-trips offered to multiple locations
- 109 residents attended

RECREATIONAL / SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

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

DISCOUNT AMUSEMENT & MOVIE TICKETS

- 1,186 summer amusement tickets sold
- 157 winter ski lift tickets sold
- 3,094 discount Regal movie tickets sold
- 1,560 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 (*rained out—look forward to even bigger July 4th, 2015 show*)
- 16th Annual Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show
- 27th Annual Community Fall Festival
- 6th Annual Community Tree Lighting
- 21,000 plus total attendees

CARING AND SHARING

- Made possible by the generosity of residents and local businesses – thank you!
- 10 Thanksgiving dinner baskets, 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

- 13 seasonal permits issued for use of ball fields
- 74 pavilion rentals at Eagleville & Eskie Parks
- 11 Level Road Schoolhouse rentals

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

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

- Eagleville Parks – Improvements to Timothy Nature Trail—*Jim Donnelly, Troop 133*
- Eskie Park – Construction and installation of an information kiosk—*Frankie Mazza, Troop 313*

AWARDS

- Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks Society Robert D. Griffith Distinguished Member Award presented to:
Karl A. Lukens, Lower Providence Twp. – Director of Parks & Recreation



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

- \$65,000 in cost avoidance on renewal premiums over the anticipated budgeted amounts 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

- Negotiation of AFSCME and Police Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Ensure compliance with all applicable mandates and internal agreements

FINANCE

- Ongoing administration of extensive internal controls
- In conjunction with Accounting Manager and Public Works Director, administration of the Solar Project financial reporting and project updates
- Comprehensive yearly financial audit
- Fixed Asset Administration
- Reduction in compensation costs in excess of \$400,000 as a result of attrition and prior retirement incentives

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

OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

KIRSTEN DEAL

PO Box 7220

Audubon, PA 19407-7220

610-666-1980

lpntaxcollector@verizon.net

www.lowerprovidencetaxcollector.com

The tax collector is available on a daily basis from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to answer your calls. 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 at the bank, your call may be returned on the next business day.

Tax bills for County & Township RE taxes are mailed at the end of February and should be received during the first week of March. Methacton School District RE tax bills are mailed at the end of June 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.

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.

SPECIAL PROJECTS & TECHNOLOGY

In 2014, work to attract businesses to the Township saw the addition of NX Utilities LLC, Inc. and Op-Tech Environmental Services Inc. to the Park Pointe at Lower Providence Business Park. NX Utilities provides utility / telecom company construction services, with six divisional offices supporting operations in most North American major markets. They are located at 970 Rittenhouse Road with an office staff of 40 employees. Op-Tech Environmental Services Inc. was acquired by National Response Corporation (NRC) in July 2013. NRC is the leading commercial provider of US Oil Pollution Act of 1990 regulatory compliance and emergency response services and is a global provider of diversified environmental, industrial, and emergency response solutions. They are located at 2550 Eisenhower Avenue with an office staff of 20 employees.



On October 22, the Business Development Committee hosted a Transportation Forum in the business park to provide updates on significant projects affecting the Township.

- Brian Early of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spoke on the U.S. Route 422/Route 363 (Trooper Road) Interchange project. The project made steady progress in 2014 with both the westbound on-ramp and the eastbound off-ramp construction proceeding well. Completion is expected fall of 2015. The project, part of the U.S. 422 Schuylkill River Crossing Complex of projects, is 100 percent financed with federal funds originally obtained through a joint effort by Lower Providence, West Norriton and Upper Merion Townships with assistance from the offices of former US Sen. Rick Santorum and former US Congressman Curt Weldon.
- The behind-the-scenes work that took place to expedite the Arcola Road Bridge project was explained by Brian Kadunc, executive assistant to Rep. Mike Vereb (150th Dist.). He noted that with the closing of the bridge in August of 2013 for safety reasons, local state legislators and officials from Lower Providence and Upper Providence Townships, Montgomery County, and PennDOT made it a priority to advance the replacement project.
- Township Manager Richard Gestrich detailed the Township's 2014 road reconstruction projects.

During the year, several longtime Township retail businesses closed their doors: WAWA on Ridge Pike, WAWA on Egypt Road and Einstein's Bagel shop on Ridge Pike. The Township's Business Development Committee is actively working on ideas for replacement businesses, maintaining a close relationship with the brokerage community.



Transportation forum was held to provide updates on major projects affecting the Township.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 15 new businesses licenses were issued
- 85 new jobs created as a result of all new businesses.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Meeting Rebroadcasts on Community

Access Cable Channel

- 24 Board of Supervisor meetings
- 12 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/3, 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 & 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 continues to cover the cost of newsletter production, allowing the printed publication to be provided to residences and businesses
- Social media - Facebook and Twitter continued to grow in importance as communication tools.

Website - www.lowerprovidence.org

- New pages added to the website:
 - **Transportation News** – The page contains information on several projects impacting the Township. It also has a link to PennDOT's 511pa.com that provides current travel conditions. (Click "Transportation News" link on the home page)
 - **Approved Solicitors/Peddlers** – Provides a current listing of solicitors approved by the Lower Providence Township Police Department. Under Township Ordinance, anyone engaged in peddling or soliciting in the Township is required to obtain a license from the Police Department that must be carried by those soliciting. Soliciting is restricted to the hours of 9am to 8pm or sunset, and there is to be no soliciting at any time on Sundays. (Click the "Police Department" on home page, look for "Solicitors/Peddlers")
- Updates, press releases and alerts posted as needed



Cable Community Access Channel (Comcast 28, Verizon 42)

- 90 Township and community organization messages aired

Press Releases and Media Relations

- Releases prepared and distributed: Township news, Police/Emergency Management, Parks & Recreation events and programming, and Business Development
- Articles prepared for "Municipal Minutes" feature in Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's quarterly publication

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

- 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 Tree Lighting and On Your Marc (benefit 5K run) Committees

OPEN RECORDS OFFICE

- 923 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 a Transportation Forum hosted by the Business Development Committee. The forum, held Oct. 22 in the Park Pointe at Lower Providence business park, provided updates on major transportation projects affecting the Township: US Route 422/363 Interchange project, Arcola Road Bridge Replacement project, and Township road reconstruction.

ORDINANCES

- #616 An ordinance authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt pursuant to the issuance of the General Obligation Notes, 2014 Series in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,012,000 for certain capital projects consisting of road reconstruction and resurfacing.
Enacted June 19, 2014
- #617 An ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of Lower Providence Township, specifically Chapter 143, Article XII Section 71 "Off Street Parking Standards" and Article XXXIII Section 259 "Ridge Pike Business District."
Enacted September 4, 2014
- #618 An ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of Lower Providence Township by revising Article XXXIII, "Ridge Pike Business District" to permit fast-food or drive-in restaurants with drive-through services as a conditional use.
Enacted September 4, 2014

All Ordinances and Resolutions adopted in 2014 are available for review at the Township Building. View the Township Code online at www.lowerprovidence.org (click the "Ordinances" link under Resources).

LOWER PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Library launched a new 5-year Strategic Plan in 2014 which identifies five goals to improve library service and meet the needs of the community. The plan is based on needs identified in a community-wide survey and on new trends in library service for the future. These five goals are to strengthen the Library's position as a part of the Lower Providence Township Community, to persistently improve the library user's experience, to develop and maintain a collection responsive to the needs and interests of the community, to increase technological capacity, and to reconfigure library space to support community requests. A number of significant steps were taken to during the year toward reaching the goals.

MISSION

The Lower Providence Community Library provides the highest quality library services to its patrons of all ages. The materials, programs, and information services and facility meet community needs for education, recreation, and cultural enrichment. The Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer seven-member Library Board of Trustees.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- There were 185,884 visitors, an average of 3,575 visitors per week.
- 244,066 items were borrowed, including e-books, downloadable audiobooks, and digital magazines.
- 3 computers were upgraded to Windows 8 with touchscreens and another was added.
- A media center with a smart TV, Blu-ray, and Apple Air for programs and classes was donated by Shannondell at Valley Forge & Chadwick's Restaurant.
- 4 iPads were purchased for use in the Children's and Teen Areas.
- New professional staff position was created, increasing the level of service by providing reference, information, and technology assistance available 6 days a week.
- An architect was engaged to develop a plan to reconfigure existing space to support community requests and library needs.
- The library website was redesigned.
- The outside book return was moved curbside to allow for drive-up returns.

FUNDING

- The Library is partially funded by allocations from the state (\$70,031) and from Lower Providence Township real estate taxes (\$534,851). The remaining operating funds are raised by the Library through fundraising events, grants, donations, interest, fines, and fees (\$163,347). Total income in 2014 was \$768,229. The Library spent \$28.65 per capita for each
- Lower Providence Township resident, \$21.03 of which came from local tax dollars. Total expenditures were \$728,842.

RESOURCES

The Library collection totals 61,363 physical items and 19,216 e-books and downloadable audiobooks in OverDrive. There are 136 digital magazine titles available through Zinio and an additional 30,000+ e-books available through Freeding. Library patrons had access to 27 electronic resources. Nine computers and six laptops with internet access were available for use. Visit the Library online at LowerProvidenceLibrary.org.

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 other efforts
- Assisted with the Annual Wine Tasting and Books, Brews & Beats
- Sponsored the Teen Advisory Board which assisted with fundraising events and special programs

The Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer seven-member Library Board of Trustees.



Visit the Library online at www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- 14,329 participants attended 495 programs for children and teens.
- 597 young people from preschool age through teens registered for Summer Reading Club.
- 3,615 participants attended 405 programs for adults.
- There were two fundraising activities—the 14th Annual Wine Tasting in March and Books, Brews & Beats in November.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

The Library's dedicated staff includes 3 full-time and 16 part-time workers. In addition, 110 volunteers contributed a combined total of 2,688 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.



SEWER AUTHORITY

**100 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

Sewer Authority Board Meetings are held at the SA Office and are open to the public. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM. (Exceptions: The November meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015 at 7:30PM and the December 9, 2015 meeting will start at 5:30PM.)

Inflow and Infiltration in the Sanitary Sewer System

During 2014, 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. Part of the work we have completed thus far was paid for from an \$826,215 grant that the SA received from the Commonwealth Financing Authority. The SA is currently seeking additional grants to help finance our 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 3000 properties. If only 250 of the remaining 4000 properties had these types of connections, and those property owners removed them from the system, we would have the potential to reduce flow during periods of heavy rain by over 150,000 gpd.

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 us a great deal of money that would otherwise be spent on additional notices and certified mail.

We are very pleased with the results of our efforts over the past years. With additional repairs to the system and your help and cooperation with the inspections we are 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*

