



# LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP

EST. 1805

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



# 2017: A LOOK BACK

The Township entered 2017 on strong financial footing having ended the previous year with a surplus in the General Fund. Township Manager Don Delamater, who joined the Township team in late 2016, continued the diligent effort to monitor revenues and expenditures and maximize resources throughout the year. The 2017 budget was adopted without a real estate tax increase. It included investments in technology, a website redesign, radio equipment upgrades, new police vehicles, Public Works equipment, and infrastructure improvements.

In 2017, the Township's effort to strengthen the local economy by retaining and attracting business gained even more momentum. During the year, 46 new businesses chose Lower Providence Township and the year saw an impressive list of success stories. Construction began for Providence Place Senior Living, revitalizing a challenging site and reusing the landmark Collegeville Inn building. Nearby at Germantown Pike and River Road, the Courts at Brynwood Townhomes are giving a brownfield site a new lease on life. The list also included approved plans for a Lidl grocery store at the former Norristown Ford site, new retail shops and a hotel along Trooper Road, and an investment by the new owner in renovations for the Audubon Shopping Center.

On the transportation front, preliminary engineering and final design work continued for the Park Ave./Eagleville Rd./Crawford Rd. intersection improvement project. After reviewing acceptable alternatives with the PennDOT, it was decided to pursue an aligned, signalized intersection design. The project is an excellent example of an intergovernmental/private-public partnership to benefit the community and is made possible by an initial PennDOT grant award and potential future grant funding, coupled with the Township's contribution and \$2.3 million from Audubon Land Development. You can follow the project's progress at the Township website, [www.lowerprovidence.org](http://www.lowerprovidence.org).

In April, the Board of Supervisors hosted an open house to provide residents and businesses a unique, one-stop opportunity to hear about projects in and around the Township. The "state of the Township" event drew some 200 attendees who heard details on residential and commercial development, transportation planning initiatives, road paving, as well as recreation and cultural projects. The Supervisors look forward to

continuing to host similar events annually.

On the following pages, this Annual Report will highlight the work done on behalf of the Lower Providence Township community in 2017. I'd like to thank our volunteers and Township staff for their work and my fellow Supervisors for their leadership. My thanks, also, go to the residents and business community for their support.

*Colleen Eckman*  
2017 Chairwoman  
Board of Supervisors



Groundbreaking ceremony for the  
Providence Place Senior Living facility.

# 2017 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



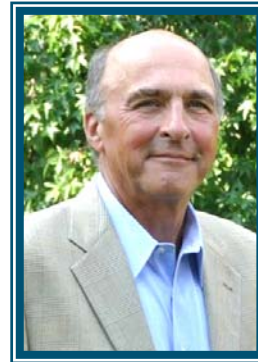
**Colleen Eckman**  
Chairwoman



**Jason Sorgini**  
Vice Chairman



**Patrick Duffy**



**Peter MacFarland**



**Jill Zimmerman**

## 2017 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

### AUDITORS

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

### LIBRARY BOARD

Marie Altieri, President  
Nancy Klein, Vice President  
Mary Shaw, Secretary  
Ben Simkin, Treasurer  
Lucy Arnold  
M. Joseph Clement  
David Nawrocki  
*Patrick Duffy –Board of Supervisors Liaison*

### ZONING HEARING BOARD

Kathie Eskie, Chairwoman  
Gail Hager, Vice Chairwoman  
Patricia Alzamora  
Robert Hardt  
Joseph Pucci  
Joseph Bergquist, alternate

### SEWER AUTHORITY

Fred Walker, Chairman  
Charles Rose, Vice Chairman  
Robert Tschoepe, Secretary  
William Stanczak, Treasurer  
Tom Borai, Assistant Treasurer  
*Peter MacFarland, Board of Supervisors Liaison*

### VACANCY BOARD

Gloria Corcoran

### PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

George Ozorowski, Chairman  
William Wurtz, Vice Chairman  
Erin DiPaolo  
Charlotte Mandracchia  
J.P. Mascaro  
Beth Ann Mazza  
John Neilson Jr.  
Katherine McGrath, student representative  
Dylan Pompe, student representative  
Kendall Ozorowski, student representative  
Reilly Smith, student representative  
*Jason Sorgini, Board of Supervisors Liaison*

### PLANNING COMMISSION

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

### UCC APPEALS BOARD

M. Steven Gillan  
Richard Firth  
Joseph McKeon

**Lower Providence Township ■ 100 Parklane Drive ■ Eagleville PA 19403**  
**Lower Providence Community Library ■ 50 Parklane Drive ■ Eagleville PA 19403**  
**Lower Providence Township Sewer Authority ■ 20 Parklane Drive ■ Eagleville PA 19403**

# 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.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- For the fifth consecutive year the Township started the year with a General Fund surplus and continued to build on that strong foundation. Earned Income Taxes remained solid with 101.01% of the budgeted amount collected. Because of the collection rates the Township has experienced over the past few years, we were able to increase our projection for the 2017 budget and revenue exceeded our projection by over \$554,000. Real Estate Transfer taxes and Local Services taxes were also up, with collection rates of 123.3 percent and 116.45 percent, respectively, of the budgeted amounts.
- The 2017 General Fund Operating Budget of \$10,271,360 included a 1.027 percent increase in expenditures but carried no tax millage increase. The increase in expenditures reflects contractual wage increases for police and non-uniform personnel. Sound fiscal policies and oversight allowed other expenditures to remain steady or decrease.
- A conscious effort of monitoring expenses throughout the year resulted in spending just shy of the budgeted amount. As of this writing, 2017 ended with a \$47,265 surplus as opposed to a budgeted deficit of \$339,598. The final surplus number will be subject to audit review.
- Beginning in 2017, the Township was in a position to fund road reconstruction projects from annual liquid fuels revenue since debt funded by liquid fuels was paid in full in 2016.

## 2017 Real Estate Tax Rates

<i>Lower Providence Township</i>	<b>Millage</b>
General Fund	.905 mills
Library Fund	.345 mills
Debt Service Fund	.276 mills
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund	.241 mills
<i>Methacton School District</i>	29.4585 mills
<i>Montgomery County</i>	3.459 mills
<i>Montgomery County Community College</i>	.39 mills

## 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, 84% goes to Methacton School District, 11% 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.

## TOWNSHIP BUDGET - All Funds

01	General Fund	\$9,931,762
04	Library Fund	\$557,345
07	Solid Waste Fund	\$0
18	Highway Improvement Capital Reserve	\$732,090
20	Debt Service Fund	\$639,619
21	Liquid Fuels Funded Loans	\$194,064
30	Capital Projects Fund	\$347,280
31	Parks and Recreation Operating Fund	\$901,670
33	Parks and Recreation Capital Fund	\$111,000
35	Highway Aid Fund	\$1,034,083
39	Unrestricted Capital Fund	\$146,800
40	Tree Fund	\$6,000
55	Self Insurance Fund	\$39,601
70	Equipment Replacement Fund	\$5,000
<b>2017 EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$14,646,314</b>

## 2017 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

REVENUES		EXPENSES	
REAL ESTATE TAXES	1,461,915	LEGISLATIVE & EXECUTIVE	597,758
LOCAL ENABLING TAXES	6,446,800	FINANCE & TAX COLLECTION	259,458
FEES & PERMITS	556,100	LEGAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES	191,500
FINES	110,000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT-BUILDINGS/TECHNOLOGY	293,562
INTEREST	9,500	POLICE	3,559,706
RENTS	5,300	FIRE & AMBULANCE	499,626
LOCAL GRANTS	10,000	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	333,550
STATE GRANTS	55,000	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & SAFETY	17,110
STATE SHARED REVENUES	587,371	DONATIONS	5,500
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	50,380	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE	1,105,161
INSPECTIONS	516,500	MISCELLANEOUS	69,745
MISCELLANEOUS	122,896	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & PENSION	3,054,452
FUND BALANCE FORWARD	3,273,327	INSURANCE	115,726
<b>TOTAL Revenues</b>	<b>13,205,089</b>	INTERFUND TRANSFERS	200,506
		ENDING BALANCE	2,901,729
		<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>13,205,089</b>



# POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Lower Providence Township Police Department is a professional, progressive, community oriented law enforcement organization committed to making the Township a great place to live, work and play. The department consists of 31 police officers, two civilian dispatchers and a part-time evidence clerk. The department was accredited by the PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission in 2006 and has received reaccreditation every three years since 2006. Accredited status has been awarded to less than 7% of the 1200 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### ACTIVITY

- Police vehicles logged 303,056 miles during the year.
- Department personnel attended 1,245 court proceedings.
- 41 offenders participated in the Drug Education and Abuse Prevention (DEAP) program.
- Assigned personnel assisted with Montgomery County SWAT-Central Region mutual aid assignments.
- Assigned personnel assisted with Montgomery County Major Incident Response Team mutual aid assignments.
- The detective unit conducted 456 new or follow-up investigations.
- There were 359 Part I Crimes reported in 2017 with a clearance rate of 57%.
- There were 610 Part II Crimes reported with a clearance rate of 68%.
- State UCR data shows 2.7% of all reported crime in Montgomery County occurred in the Lower Providence Township.

### PROJECTS

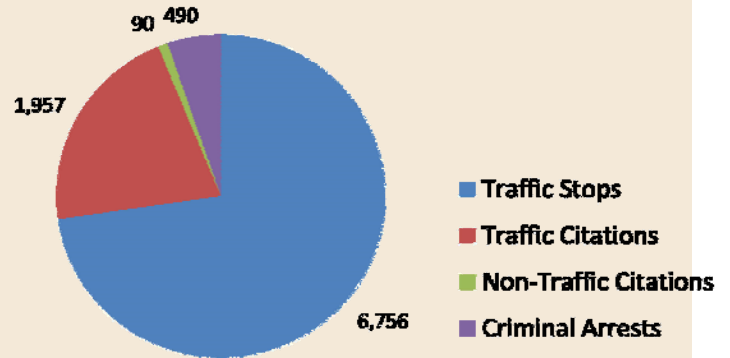
- Creation and implementation of the Drug Education and Abuse Prevention (DEAP) program.
- Implementation of the Power DMS program for accreditation and training tracking.
- Traffic Safety and Community Policing Unit expansion and programming.
- Continuation of the department's K9 program.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior Police Academy

### PERSONNEL

#### NEW HIRES:

Officer Matthew I. Cerasuolo was hired in October.

## 2017 Total Enforcement Activity



## COMMENDATIONS

### 2017 POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR :

Corporal Michael G. Slattery

### CITIZENS COMMENDATIONS:

Nurse Julia Caldwell – Life saving

Nurse Kelly Magyar – Life saving

### LIFE SAVING COMMENDATION

Sergeant Matthew Kuhnert

### COMMENDATION OF MERIT:

Corporal Michael Slattery – Drug investigation

Corporal Richard Aston – Drug investigation

Officer Joseph McCreary – Drug investigation

### LETTERS OF COMMENDATION:

Officer W. Timothy Arthur – Child abuse investigation and (2) Naloxone saves

Officer Devon Auge – (2) Naloxone saves

Officer Matthew Barber – (2) Naloxone save

Corporal Richard Aston – Naloxone save

Officer Jeremy Bonner – Naloxone save

Sergeant James Crawford – Naloxone save

Officer Cherelle Cutting – Naloxone save

Detective Scott Dreibelbis – Child abuse investigation

Officer Ryan Gill - (2) Naloxone saves

Officer Eric Honick - (2) Naloxone saves

Sergeant William Hopkins - Naloxone save

Officer Justin Hubert - Naloxone save

Sergeant Terrence Kennedy – Child abuse investigation

Detective Charles King – Child abuse investigation

Officer Joseph McCreary – Assist outside agency, warrant arrest and (2) Naloxone saves

Officer Michael Nastasi – Naloxone save

Detective Reginald Nealy – Child abuse investigation

Officer Ryan Singleton – Naloxone save

Corporal Michael Slattery – Assist outside agency, theft arrest



Lower Providence Township Police Sgt. Matthew Kuhnert and St. Gabriel's Hall nurses Kelly Magyar and Julia Caldwell received commendations for providing life-saving medical assistance to an unresponsive victim at St. Gabriel's.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Planning, Zoning, Building Code, Code Enforcement, and Fire Marshal functions of the Township are consolidated under the Community Development Department. Again 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 Applications

- **35 Evansburg Road** - Approval of a Village Home development containing 24 single-family detached homes, existing office/day care use remains. (CU-17-01)
- **2839 Ridge Pike / Moon Day Spa** - Denial of a third use within the building to operate a massage therapy business (CU-17-02)
- **28 Eagleville Road / HTC Associates**, 28 Eagleville Rd - Approval of the use to permit a contractor's office and garage to be constructed on a property in the Ridge Pike Business District (CU-17-03)

### Land Developments

- **4000 Ridge Pike / Providence Place Senior Living** - Renovation of former Collegeville Inn and construction of new addition for assisted living (LD 16-07)
- **2600 Ridge Pike / Dunkin Donuts** - Demolition of existing service station building and construction of a restaurant with drive-thru, awaiting permitting from outside agencies (LD-15-04)
- **3768 Germantown Pike / St. James Church** - Master plan and expansion, revision of plan scope (LD-16-04)
- **109 River Road and Germantown Pike** - Renovation of multi-family residence into office, plan revision (LD-16-05)
- **3050 Ridge Pike / Lower Providence Presbyterian Church parking lot** - Expansion of parking with improved traffic circulation and stormwater control. (LD-17-01)
- **30 Eagleville Road / Streamlight expansion** - Expansion of office and warehouse of approximately 72,000 SF (LD-17-02)
- **2613 Ridge Pike / Lidl US** - Demolition of vacant car dealership and service station and construction of approximately 37,000 SF supermarket (LD-17-03)
- **2626 Van Buren Ave. / Metropolitan Veterinary Associates** - Expansion of operations with mobile imaging trailer (LD-17-04)

### Subdivisions

- **37 Crawford Road / Anderko Homes** - 11 single-family homes (S-16-02)
- **1418 Gertrude Ave.** - 3 single-family homes (S-17-01)
- **2711 Woodland Ave. / Gambone Tract** - 9 single-family homes (S-17-02)
- **224 Summit Ave.** - Individual single-family home (S-17-04)
- **306 Level Road** - 7 single-family homes (S-17-05)
- **141 Appledale Road** - 2 single-family homes (S-17-08)

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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

Visit [www.lowerprovidence.org/planninganddevelopment.htm](http://www.lowerprovidence.org/planninganddevelopment.htm) for more information and project updates.

The Planning Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. The Zoning Hearing Board meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

- 252 Service Requests addressed and 237 closed
- 1420 Issued Permits
  - ◆ 329 Building
  - ◆ 247 Electrical
  - ◆ 19 Fire Suppression
  - ◆ 159 Mechanical
  - ◆ 157 Plumbing
  - ◆ 263 Resale Permits – 10 Commercial/253 Residential
  - ◆ 237 Zoning Permits
  - ◆ 9 Alarm

## ZONING

- 18 Zoning Hearing Board Appeals filed

### ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS

- ZT-17-01 Zoning Ordinance Medical Marijuana
- ZT-17-02, Zoning Ordinance Boundary Tolerance
- ZT-17-03, Zoning Ordinance IP Auto Repair

## CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

- **Mascaro Memorial Ball Fields** - The Mascaro family is constructing three ball fields, a playground, and batting cages on a property along Woodland Avenue. The fields will be used by Little League teams with the facility operated by the Township.
- **Audubon Square V Update** – New construction of three retail spaces and a new connector road between Jefferson Ave. and Shannondell Blvd.
- **John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove** – Construction of a new, approximately 22,000 SF museum and education center
- **3838 Ridge Pike / Classic Coachwork** – Expansion of existing business
- **222 Collegeville Road / Rowe Tract** - 2 single-family homes
- **Landis Mill Estates**, Lucia Lane - 9 single-family homes
- **Village at Brynwood**, Brynwood Court - 12 single-family homes
- **Courts at Brynwood**, Germantown Pike and River Rd - 139 townhomes
- **Audubon Village Shopping Center**, 2828 Egypt Rd - Façade replacement

## OTHER MATTERS

- New stormwater management ordinance
- New sign regulations for zoning ordinance
- Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance participation
- Transportation and Community Development Initiative - West Ridge Pike

# 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 91 miles of roadway.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

In 2017, crews were called out seven times to salt or plow the roads in the Township. 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.

### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance is vital to keep all infrastructure functioning properly.

- 197 street signs were repaired or replaced
- 807 storm sewer inlets were cleaned
- 53 storm sewer inlets were reconstructed
- 13 roadways were crack sealed
- Street sweeping was completed on all Township roadways

### STORM SEWER REHABILITATION

- Maintenance of storm water inlets, including the rebuilding of several storm water boxes and pipe work

### ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

The Township's 2017 road improvement bid was awarded to Innovative Construction Services, Inc. who submitted the low bid at \$393,755.95. The following roads were milled and paved:

- E. Mt Kirk Avenue (Ridge Pike to Township limit)
- Arcola Road (Level Road to Hoy Circle)
- Lenape Drive (Level Road to Indian Woods Lane)
- Indian Woods Lane (Level Road to dead end)
- Chieftan Circle (Cul-de-sac to Lenape Drive)
- Worthington Road (Winthrop Road to Barrington Road)
- Raynham Road (Barrington Road to Cul-de-sac)
- Blue Teel Circle (Eagleville Road to Cul-de-sac)

### 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)



The Township's Public Works crew paved Sixth Street (dead end to Hillside Avenue) and Washington Street (dead end to Theresa Street). All work was scheduled after the close of school for the summer and was completed before school resumed in the fall.

Additionally, the Township oversaw paving work completed by PA American Water Company on Providence Road, Sarah Avenue and Circle Drive.



This inlet on Level Road was one of 53 that were reconstructed in during the year.



Public Works crew members complete paving work on Sixth Street.



# 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 2017. 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

- 230 campers in Kindergarten through Grade 5 registered at 3 sites - Audubon, Arrowhead & Eagleville Elementary schools
- 22 staff members: 1 director, 3 site supervisors, 6 group leaders, 12 counselors
- 7 week program, 8:00am - 4:00pm, Monday - Friday
- 88 registered for extended-day option

### Perkiomy Trailblazers

- 101 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
- 12 staff members: 3 site supervisors, 9 counselors
- 44 registered for extended day option

### Counselor in Training Program

- (12) 13-15 year olds learned what it takes to be a counselor at Camp Perkiomy

### Bus Trips

- 11 day-trips offered to multiple locations
- 110 residents attended

### Recreational / Specialty Program

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

## 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.**

- 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Independence Day Fireworks & Concert
- 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Fall Festival
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Tree Lighting
- 15,000 plus total attendees

### Discount Amusement & Movie Tickets

- 556 summer amusement tickets sold
- 21 winter ski lift tickets sold
- 1694 discount Regal movie tickets sold
- 985 discount Movie Tavern tickets sold

### Permits

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

## 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)

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

- *All Playgrounds* – New wood fibers added to fall zones
- *All Parks* – Replacement of trash containers
- *All Parks* – Addition of recycling cans
- *All Parks* – Replacement of trash containers
- *All Parks* – Installation of updated Park signs
- *Eagleville Park* – Installation of new electrical service for community lawn
- *Level Road School House* – Installation of new floor
- *Level Road School House* – Installation of floor supports



All parks received updated signs

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

***Congratulations and thanks go out to Eagle Scout Matthew Kahn of Troop 7155 whose hard work culminated with the construction of picnic tables for Dell Angelo Park.***



**Matthew Kahn, Troop 7155 above working on his Eagle Scout Project**



# 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

### 2017 Highlights

#### GROUP HEALTH

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

#### WORKERS' 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 COLLECTOR

#### OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

**MICHAEL 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)**

The Real Estate Tax bill is levied by three different taxing authorities: Lower Providence Township, Methacton School District, and Montgomery County. The amount of the real estate tax millage is approved each year by the respective governing bodies of those taxing authorities. A millage is

calculated as \$1 of taxes on every \$1000 of a property's assessed value.

Township Real Estate Tax bills are issued on March 1 of each year. A discount period is available from March 1-April 30, for those who wish to receive a 2% discount. Taxes paid after July 1 are subject to a 10% penalty. If a tax bill is delinquent by December 31<sup>st</sup> the year it is due, a lien will be placed against the property.

Methacton School District Real Estate 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.

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 he 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.

## IMPORTANT 2018 INFORMATION

The new location for in-person tax collection is the Shoemaker House, 30 Parklane Drive, Eagleville, PA 19403. The building is the stone farmhouses located off the main drive of the Township complex. There is a handicap accessible ramp to the kitchen entrance of the building.

Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dates for County and Township in-person collections are as follows:

- April 17, 19, 23, 25, 27 and 30
- June 25, 27, 29

# SPECIAL PROJECTS & TECHNOLOGY

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, efforts to attract new businesses had continued success, with 46 new businesses adding 244 new employees to the Township. Five new businesses joined the Park Pointe at Lower Providence Business Park: Remarx Medical Services, Superior Plus Energy, Infusioncare - BioScrip, Cordicate IT and BrandPoint Services. Together, these four companies provided 65 new employees to Park Pointe.

The Ridge Pike Corridor also saw a number of new businesses begin operation in 2017, including Paradise Donuts, Nook and Kranny Kafe 2, Valvoline Instant Oil Change, Indian Hut and Arusuvai Indian Cuisine. In addition, the Township added Ava's Ice Cream in Evansburg, Corropolese Italian Bakery in Audubon, and Suvege and Sakura Sushi Thai Hibachi in the Audubon Square Shopping Center in 2017.



**Supervisor Colleen Eckman addresses attendees at the West Ridge Pike business forum.**

During the year, the Department assisted the Township with two public meetings, a Supervisors' Open House on April 19 at Chadwick's Restaurant and a "Ridge Pike West – Primed for Growth" business forum on October 11 at the IBEW Business Office at 3900 Ridge Pike. At the Supervisors' Open House, over 200 attendees heard the supervisors speak about new residential and commercial development, transportation planning initiatives, the 2017 road paving schedule, as well as recreation and cultural projects. At the business forum, the supervisors provided details of the Ridge Pike West zoning and the strategy behind it. They also discussed the growth potential of the Ridge Pike corridor and presented information on development planned for the area.

The Business Development Committee continued to meet monthly in 2017, discussing economic development strategies and ways to recruit new businesses. For example, the committee recognized the success and

popularity of brew pubs and said, "Why not Lower Providence?" The committee's interest and efforts drew the attention of entrepreneurs and plans were set in motion to locate a brew pub in the Township.

The Township took a major step forward with the upgrading of the Township website. The current website was originally implemented in 2004. The redesigned website features a responsive interface which adapts to the users device, mobile phone, iPad or PC.



### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 46 new businesses licenses were issued
- 244 new jobs created as a result of all new businesses
- Business Development Facebook page

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Meeting Rebroadcasts on Community Access Cable Channel

- 22 Board of Supervisor 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.

#### 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

### Website

- The Township launched a completely redesigned website in the fall. The site features a clean and contemporary look and offers users simplified navigation. The new site has a responsive design that automatically reshapes itself for any screen, including smart phones and tablets. A large, photo "Bulletin" area allows the Township to highlight timely events and information.

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

### Newsletter and Annual Report

- The Township's Annual Report earned a first-place award in the PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) state-wide communication contest.
- The newsletter is published three times per year. Advertising sponsorship covers the cost of newsletter production, allowing the printed publication to be provided to residences and businesses.

### Social Media

- The Township continued to utilize Facebook and Twitter as valuable communication tools.

### Cable Community Access Channel

- Township-based community organizations can submit messages to be posted on the "bulletin board" on Comcast Channel 28 and Verizon Channel 42

### Media Relations

- Various press releases were prepared and distributed related to: Township news; Police/Emergency Management; Parks & Recreation events and programming; and Business Development information.
- The releases can found on the "News" tab on website's redesigned home page.

## 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.



Township Redesigned Website above

### OPEN RECORDS OFFICE

- 892 Requests for Information were logged and processed, 72 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 promotional efforts throughout the year

### Emergency Notification System

- During the latter part of the year, the Township prepared for and promoted the switch to ReadyMontco's Everbridge system for alerts and community messages. As with the former system, Township officials are able to send messages to thousands of residents, businesses and local agencies via a single phone call.
- Residents and businesses are encouraged to set up an account with the new system, ReadyMontco.org to receive notifications by phone, email or text messages. The system allows them to set preferences as to how and when they would like to receive messages. They are also encouraged to sign up for Smart911.com which provides helpful information to first responders in the event of a 911 call at their residence.



# 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.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Twelve new computer workstations were installed, replacing tables holding the public access computers. The workstations provide patrons more work space and privacy without clutter from cords and wires. Interior walls received a fresh coat of paint. EBSCO Discovery, a powerful search tool, was added to the Library website. Patrons can now choose "Catalog" to search the online catalog only or can choose "All Resources" to search the catalog plus online databases to find articles in magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias and more. In response to a 2017 survey, new services were added: Hoopla, a digital streaming and download service for video, music, audio books and ebooks; Wi-Fi hotspots that can be checked out for a week at a time, and more museum passes.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Library received 175,185 visitors
- The Library loaned 216,954 items
- The Library was open for 2,953 hours of service to the community

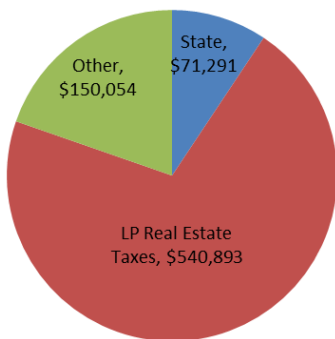
### FRIENDS OF LOWER PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Friends of the Lower Providence Community Library support the Library through volunteer work and fundraising efforts. In 2017, they assisted with the Annual Wine Tasting and sponsored an ongoing used book sale, supermarket receipt refund programs, calendar sales, and basket raffles. The Friends donated \$18,000 to the Library in 2017, which was used to fund children's and teen programs and the museum pass collection, purchase new library materials, and purchase an AWE Early Literacy tablet loaded with hundreds of learning activities.

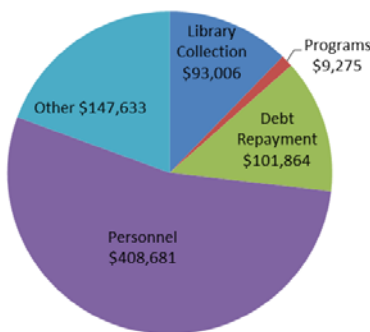
The **Teen Advisory Board** (TAB) is the junior division of the Friends. Members take an active part in supporting the Library by helping with the Cabin Fever Book Sale, Library fundraising events, children's programs, the Preschool Halloween Party, LPT Easter Egg Hunt and decorating the Library for the holidays.

### RESOURCES

The Library collection totals 55,388 physical items, 350,508 e-books, 356,845 downloadable audiobooks and music, 36,135 downloadable and streaming video, and 109 digital magazines titles. Patrons had access to 33 electronic resources, 10 public desktop computers, 10 laptops, an early literacy computer and tablet, 4 iPads, and a wireless internet access point.



Total income: \$762,238



Total Expenses: \$760,459



An enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the Mad Science Presentation

### ADULT PROGRAMS

The Adult Department offered 572 programs with an attendance of 5,845. Weekly programs included Mahjong Club, Crafters Club, Canasta, Cercle Francais, English Conversation Class (ESL), yoga, chair yoga, and meditation. Other programs included monthly book discussion groups, technology classes, movie showings and programs on a wide variety of special topics. The Library hosted a Volunteer Fair with 17 community organizations taking part.

### CHILDREN & TEEN PROGRAMS & EVENTS

The Children & Teens Department hosted 473 programs attended by 10,622 children, teens, and adults, including story times, summer reading club, and math and science-based programs. Special events included author visits; programs by magicians, storytellers, musicians, theater groups, and puppeteers; and a Lower Providence Township Police Department K-9 unit demonstration.

The Library worked cooperatively with Methacton schools, provided outreach events to area preschools, offered tours for scout groups, and made space available for homeschool groups.

### STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

The dedicated Library staff includes 3 full-time and 16 part-time workers. The Library is governed by a volunteer seven-member Board of Trustees. There were 123 volunteers who donated 3,243 hours of service in the Library. Many other volunteers contributed their time for fundraising activities. In recognition of this service, the Library Board of Trustees hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social in August.

### FUNDING

The Library is partially funded by state allocations and from Lower Providence Township real estate taxes. The remaining funds for the operating budget are raised by the Library through fundraising events, donations, grants, interest, fines, and fees. The Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In 2017 the Library spent \$29.90 per capita for each Township resident, \$21.26 of which came from local tax dollars. The two major fundraising events for 2017 were the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting held in March and a Murder Mystery Dinner in October.



# SEWER AUTHORITY

The Township Sewer Authority maintains approximately 100 miles of pipe, 1200 manholes, and 18 sewage pumping stations within the township. On average, 3.5 million gallons of sewage per day is collected and sent to the treatment plant in Oaks.

## Pennsylvania One Call

A PA One Call is a preventative measure to identify the underground sewer lines before a contractor digs. In 2017, the Sewer Authority responded to 1720 PA One Calls. The Sewer Authority's marking color is **Green**

## Customer Service Requests

The Sewer Authority wants customers to know that its employees are always available during regular business hours by calling 610-539-6161 and after hours by calling 1-800-379-5713 to address emergency situations. If you should have a backup in your outside line, contact us so that we can verify that it is not being caused by a blockage in our main line before you call a plumber. The Sewer Authority responded to 23 customer service requests in 2017.

## Routine Maintenance

- Inspected 10 new connections and 15 repairs on sewer laterals.
- Cleaned and/or televised 5,570' of main sewer line.
- Plunged and cleared 12 laterals.
- All 17 of the sewage pumping stations are inspected three days per week

## Board Meetings

Sewer Authority Board Meetings are held at the SA Office in the Board Room and are open to the public. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.



## Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement Project:

- A number of sanitary sewer lines were replaced throughout the Township on North Trooper Road (between Ridge Pike and Lloyd Lane), Mann Road, Wayne Avenue, Evans Road, Henry Road, Brant Road, Oakridge Circle, Miami Avenue, Oaklyn Avenue, and Walker Lane. The contractor found substantial leaks in the main and laterals. We are happy to report that the work has had a major impact on the I/I (Inflow and Infiltration) issues that were found in those areas.
- A new sanitary sewer Line was installed on Kenny Lane.

This is the Authority's sewer cleaner truck which is used to clean and maintain approximately 100 miles of pipe and 17 sewage pumping stations within the Township which on average collect 3.5 million gallons of sewage per day and transport it to the treatment plant in Oaks. It is also used to open up the sewer main blockages due to household cooking grease and roots from trees. The truck is also equipped with a camera that is used to view inside our sewer main to inspect and trouble shoot problems.

# TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES

#644 An ordinance amending Chapter 143, *Zoning*, of the Township Code concerning the extension of zoning boundaries on split-zoned properties.  
*Enacted July 20, 2017*

#645 An ordinance approving the withdrawal of the Township from the Susquehanna Municipal Trust and authorizing participation in the Delaware Valley Workers' Compensation Trust.  
*Enacted November 16, 2017*

#646 An ordinance enacting a new chapter, Chapter 129, *Stormwater Management*, of the Township Code.  
*Enacted December 7, 2017*

#647 An ordinance amending Chapter 143, *Zoning*, of the Township Code concerning auto repair garages and the Industrial Park (IP) District.  
*Enacted December 21, 2017*

#648 An ordinance amending the Subdivision and Land Development ordinance with regard to stormwater provisions.  
*Enacted December 21, 2017*

#649 An ordinance amending Chapter 138, *Parking Regulations*, of the Township Code restricting parking on Clearfield Avenue.  
*Enacted December 21, 2017*

#650 An ordinance revising Chapter 37, *Planning Commission*, of the Township Code establishing number of members, qualifications and powers and duties.  
*Enacted December 21, 2017*

All Ordinances and Resolutions adopted in 2017 are available for review at the Township Building.  
View the Township Code online at [www.lowerprovidence.org](http://www.lowerprovidence.org)  
(click the "Codes/Ordinances" link in the Citizen Action Center on the home page).



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