



# *Lower Providence*

T O W N S H I P



## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**CRAIG M. DININNY**  
*Chairman*



**PIERO A. SASSU**  
*Vice Chairman*



**MARIE ALTIERI**



**RICHARD T. BROWN**



**CHRISTOPHER J. DiPAOLO**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Lower Providence,

2008 has proven to be a very interesting year to say the least. A major concern for our community is the continuing changes in our country's economy and what that means to Lower Providence Township. The Valley Forge Business Park's ever-changing role will impact our economic plans for the future. We are very excited about the new wave of reinvestment in the commercial properties along Ridge Pike. The headlines were dominated in 2008 by the plans for the American Revolution Center that is to be built in Lower Providence Township. As you can see, this year's message is about the Township's financial health and stability.

Our country is in an economic downturn that many did not see coming. Banks offered many Americans mortgages they could not afford and credit card limits were handed out without regard to the ability to repay. Now that those promises are coming due, a great deal of Americans are simply being forced into foreclosure, longtime businesses are closing their doors, and the potential for new sources of commercial enterprise can only be described as guarded. I am pleased to say that through the diligence of a frugal 2008 budget, fiscal planning, and a tireless effort in recent years to create jobs and tax revenues, Lower Providence is financially stable.

Let's talk for a minute about the Valley Forge Business Park, an old industrial park created decades ago with mostly warehouse and manufacturing space. That type of use just isn't attracting new businesses today. The Township has to plans to better utilize this commercial area as a revenue source so that we don't need to burden the property tax base. This project started nearly two years ago as a rezoning effort that included business and property owners and residents alike. We are nearly there. Is it working? Yes! We have created hundreds of new jobs and much new interest.

The Ridge Pike Business District is another example of a proactive effort to recreate commerce in Lower Providence. We have been able to create new businesses from old, outdated ones and have reinvestment as well. These are all ways the Township has created new revenue by partnering with the local business owners to create jobs and a more vibrant commercial district.

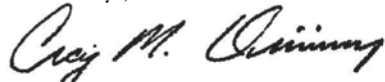
The American Revolution Center occupied many newspaper headlines in 2008. The Center will be the only museum in this country dedicated entirely to the story of America's independence. It will be designed by world-renowned individuals. The "green" building should make any environmentalist proud. The lessons will be designed and taught by scholars and authors who have served our national history with their entire life's work. The American Revolution Center will be built on private property within Lower Providence Township located on Pawlings Road adjacent to US Route 422 and St. Gabriel's Hall.

The American Revolution Center will create hundreds of jobs and inject tens of millions of revenue dollars into the local economy. It will generate nearly \$1 million in amusement, property and privilege taxes. This project by itself can generate as much income for the township as 3,300 residential property tax bills without impacting on our school district. The American Revolution Center project on its own could mean no property tax increase and the same high level of service we now enjoy for years to come.

These are the kinds of projects your Board of Supervisors and the Township staff worked on every day in 2008. Although we can never take our eyes off the ball, it's these kinds of efforts that keep Lower Providence at the top of the most desired places to live, work and play in Montgomery County.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Supervisors, the dedicated Township employees and the residents of Lower Providence for allowing me to serve as their Chairman these last three years. It has been an enjoyable, enlightening life experience I will never forget.

Best Always,



Craig Dininny

## ORDINANCES

- Ord. 567** An Ordinance adopting the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code. 7/17/08
- Ord. 568** An Ordinance regulating Parking of Recreational Vehicles on Highways, Roads and Streets in Lower Providence Township. 7/17/08
- Ord. 569** An Ordinance for Direct and Indirect Contributors into the Wastewater Collection Treatment System of Lower Perkiomen Valley regional Sewer Authority. 9/18/08
- Ord. 570** An Ordinance regarding the Regulation of Brush, Grass and Weeds. 9/18/08
- Ord. 571** An Ordinance on the Incurrence of Non-Electoral Debt by the Township of Lower Providence pursuant to the Issuance of the General Obligation Notes, 2008 Series in the amount of \$4,018,000. 10/16/08
- Ord. 572** An Ordinance to add certain provisions concerning Parking Prohibitions on Eagleville Road, east, between Featherbed Lane and Sunnyside Avenue. 11/20/08

*All Ordinances and Resolutions adopted in 2008 are available for review at the Township Building.*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

At the risk of stating what is painfully obvious, 2008 was all about the economy. While the Township recognized the disturbing economic downward trend in late 2007 and took a conservative approach to the 2008 budget, we could not have predicated the unprecedented gas prices, the skyrocketing construction costs and the eventual collapse of the financial markets. With the economy straining the Township's ability to maintain what we like to view as our exceptional level of service, we kept a watchful eye on fund balances and reserves. Fortunately, leading into 2008 and all throughout the year, we continued to streamline departments, adopted technology efficiencies, and, much like our citizens and businesses, looked for any way to cut costs. Even the seemingly little things – like turning out lights and saving paper - became a matter of protocol. Just as residents and businesses have seen personal savings and retirement plans deteriorate, the Township faces similar mounting economic challenges.


Township revenue generated by real estate transfer taxes, building permits, Park and Recreation impact fees and traffic impact fees, was down by nearly \$1.2 million in 2008 from the previous year. This directly reflects the downward spiral in the housing and construction fields. Facing this reality, an ultra-conservative, flat-line budget was adopted for 2009 and the Township has undertaken contingency planning that includes potential staffing reductions. Maintaining service levels will remain a priority. In spite of these challenges, the Township has been able to continue to hold the line on taxes and there has been no property tax increase for the last five years. It is important to note that after accounting for debt service, property taxes accounted for \$1.5 million of the Township's total 2008 General Fund Operating Budget of \$10.4 million. These funds do not even cover the cost of police services, let alone the myriad of other services provided by the Township. This underscores why the creation of new businesses and employment opportunities are so vital: In the end, job retention and creation hold the key to the Township's economic health.

On this front, there are mixed results to report. During the year, the Township saw the creation or retention of 430 jobs in the Valley Forge business park. Although we believe we did all we could in regards to the proposed Velodrome and Events Center project, in the end, the Velodrome Management Group had difficulty with its financing and is reported to be looking at venues/ partnerships in Chester County. Likewise, although much effort was placed into the proposed Expo Center and it appeared we had a viable option, Audubon Land Development was able to adapt and reuse an existing facility in the Oaks Center. We look for a benefit ripple effect for Township businesses and job seekers from the Expo and, other than the initial traffic trouble, there have been no recurring issues to date.

The most promising major project continues to be the American Revolution Center. The project has received preliminary plan approval from the Board of Supervisors. Final development of the project is currently delayed pending a challenge to the Living History Overlay District by an outside special interest group. The legal expenses related to the project are significant, but not self-inflicted. The litigation brought forth by an outside entity left the Township with limited options. Looking at the upside and assuming the Township continues to support the project, the Center is anticipated to create 855 direct and indirect jobs and contribute as estimated \$50 million in annual visitor spending.

During the year, there was significant interim success in the on-going regional efforts to improve traffic on US 422. The creation of a third westbound lane on Route 422 for exit at Route 363 has greatly improved conditions for commuters and will go a long way to attract potential employers to the Township.

While 2008 had more than its share of bad news, the following pages outline the positive work that was done on behalf of Township residents and businesses. These accomplishments reflect work that goes above and beyond the daily individual and team tasks of the Township staff. I'd like to extend my appreciation to them and our volunteers for their hard work and to the Board of Supervisors for their dedication, leadership and service. As always, sincere thanks to the residents and businesses for your support and input.



Joseph C. Dunbar  
Township Manager

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

### AUDITORS

Mary Raltson, Chairman  
Carole Gaugler, Vice Chairman  
Deborah McQuiston, Secretary

### LIBRARY BOARD

Eveann D'Onofrio, President  
Dr. Gunita Grover, Vice President  
Bruce Goldenberg, Secretary  
Joseph Sterchak, Treasurer  
John Bennett  
Deborah Malone  
Anthony Cossetti  
Rick Brown, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors

### PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Thomas Heisner, Chairman  
Beth Ann Mazza, Vice Chairman  
Colleen Eckman  
Anthony Gambone  
Marty DellAngelo  
Matt Jones, Student Representative  
Chris DiPaolo, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors

### ZONING HEARING BOARD

Janice Kearney, Chairman  
Eric Frey, Vice Chairman  
Robert Hardt  
William Donovan  
James Dougherty

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Warren Schlack, Chairman  
Thomas Endlich, Vice Chairman  
Thomas Rutledge  
John Bodek  
Frank Vibbert  
Naomi Satterwhite  
Mark Kuberski  
Joseph Stemple  
Jill Zimmerman  
Marie Altieri, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors

### VACANCY BOARD

Edward Houseal



# FINANCE

The finance department is responsible for the accurate reporting of all revenue and expenditures of the Township. This includes making sure that Township purchasing and approval processes are being followed. Budget allocations are monitored to detect overages. Revenues are tracked to ensure adequate cash flow.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### AUDIT

- Audit began third week of January. Encompasses all departments
- Auditors collected information in-house for one week
- Annual audit was completed with no findings
- In 2008, Attorney General's office conducted an audit of Liquid Fuels allocations for the years 2006 and 2007; included Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank loan

### REPORTING

- Completed DCED annual reports.
- Completed annual Liquid Fuels report.
- PURTA reporting. (Public Utility Report Tax Act) - Commonwealth of Pennsylvania-Tax Exempt properties owned by utility companies.
- MMO – Minimum Municipal Obligation for pension funds.

### BUDGET PREPARATION

- Conducted capital projects workshops and recommended projects for 2009.
- Projects were selected on a basis of how they would be funded.
- Overall budget very conservative due to current economic conditions.
- Held off the approval process to more carefully monitor the economic situation.
- In November 2008, the budget was approved with minimal changes

## 2008 BUDGET OVERVIEW

For the fifth consecutive year, there was no real estate tax increase in 2008. The budget reflected a conservative approach, with fewer budgeted expenditures than in 2007. Excluding a projected open space acquisition totaling \$1.8 million, the overall general fund expenditures for 2008 were less than those in the approved 2007 budget.

Many factors led to the conservative approach to the 2008 budget: The downturn in the economy; a decrease in land development applications that resulted in less developer contributions; and a decline in the employment base. However, much was accomplished in prior years to allow us to move forward with the conservative budget:

- There was a strong effort to improve efficiencies
- We are utilizing technology to negate the cost associated with added manpower
- We're doing more with less

### FINANCIAL PLANNING

- Recognizing the significance of the economic downturn, conducted a round table discussion with all entities holding township funds. A Request for Proposal for Cash Management Services was drafted.
- This project is ongoing and will be discussed further in 2009

### REFINANCE 1998 BOND

- Calhoun Baker facilitated the refinance through Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority

## 2008 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

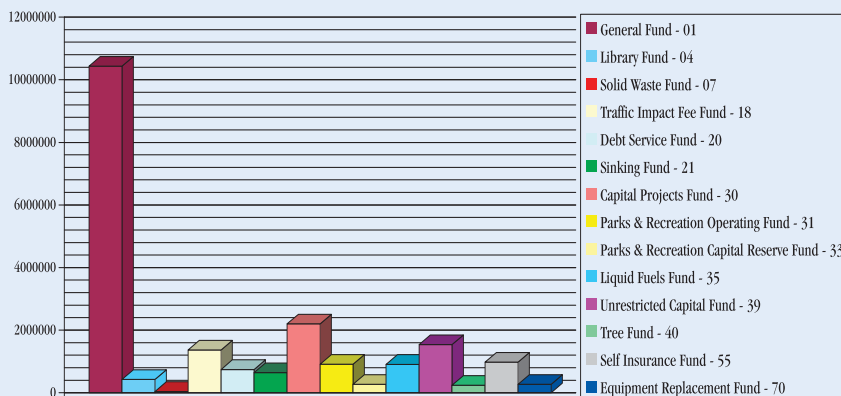
### REVENUES

Real Estate Taxes.....	1,458,000
Local Tax Enabling Taxes.....	5,312,500
Fees & Permits .....	365,550
Fines .....	110,000
Interest .....	47,250
Rents .....	4,800
State Operating Grants .....	106,035
State Shared Revenues .....	526,174
Charges for Services.....	26,500
Inspections.....	407,500
Miscellaneous & Other Revenue.....	168,084
Interfund Operating Transfers .....	105,182
Fund Balance Forwarded.....	1,796,204
<b>TOTAL Revenues.....</b>	<b>10,433,779</b>

### EXPENSES

Legislative & Executive.....	720,665
Finance & Tax Collection.....	261,524
Legal & Engineering Services.....	287,500
General Government – Buildings/Technology.....	404,436
Police.....	2,845,683
Fire & Ambulance .....	474,717
Community Development .....	363,556
Emergency Management & Safety .....	29,700
Animal Control, Health & Welfare.....	24,750
Highway Maintenance .....	889,867
Miscellaneous Expenditures .....	143,416
Employee Benefits & Pension.....	2,237,737
Insurance.....	161,949
Interfund Transfers.....	1,039,179
Fund Balance Forward .....	549,100
<b>TOTAL Expenses.....</b>	<b>10,433,779</b>

General Fund - 01 .....	\$10,433,779
Library Fund - 04 .....	426,900
Solid Waste Fund - 07 .....	40,535
Traffic Impact Fee Fund - 18.....	1,362,973
Debt Service Fund - 20 .....	742,817
Sinking Fund - 21.....	642,667
Capital Projects Fund - 30 .....	2,199,249
Parks & Recreation Operating Fund - 31.....	909,365
Parks & Recreation Capital Reserve Fund - 33 .....	270,258
Liquid Fuels Fund - 35 .....	905,054
Unrestricted Capital Fund - 39 .....	1,536,868
Tree Fund - 40.....	239,946
Self Insurance Fund - 55 .....	974,977
Equipment Replacement Fund – 70.....	267,869
<b>Summary for All Funds.....</b>	<b>20,953,257</b>



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Department is responsible for administering; directing and implementing Township planning, zoning and building code ordinances. The Community Development Department also maintains and indexes land development and subdivision record plans and the individual parcel management records for the Township Geographic Information System.

## 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS

### ■ PURCHASE OF FLEET VEHICLE - FORD FOCUS

**Summary:** A Ford Focus vehicle was purchased to replace an aging and fuel inefficient 2001 Crown Victoria for the Community Development fleet. The vehicle was properly striped and entered into the fleet of code vehicles in May of 2008.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MONTGOMERY AWARD

- The Township received an "Excellence in Planning And Design Award" from the county recognizing the CVS Pharmacy and Audubon Inn project. The project preserved the historic inn and successfully integrated a new drugstore into an historic setting and resulted in much-needed intersection improvements, streetscape amenities and job creation. Community input and collaboration between the township and developers were critical to the success of the project. The Inn, meticulously restored by the law firm of Furey & Baldassari, now houses their offices.

### ■ PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY GREENING AWARD

- The Township was honored for the naturalization of a stormwater basin located on Still Meadow Road in the Collegeville section of the township. The project was part of the conversion of Township-owned stormwater basins from existing mown grass landscapes to naturalized wet meadow and native plant communities.

### ■ MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT CYNTHIA WELDER AWARD

- The Township was recognized for its outstanding and dedicated service to children with disabilities. Specifically, the township was honored for its support in renovating the Anderson School at 930 Jefferson Avenue in the business park

### ■ RIDGE PIKE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR

- Revitalization of the corridor, spurred by the Ridge Pike Business District Ordinance, continued with the demolition of the former Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonald's restaurants to pave the way for the TruMark Credit Union and Penn Liberty Bank.

### ■ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sinclair Salisbury, the Township's Building Code Official, received his Master Code Professional Certification, the highest level of certification of the International Code Council.
- Allan Booz obtained certification as a Residential Inspector and Property Maintenance Inspector
- The Township was recognized as a leader among PA Municipalities by being listed as a model municipality under the Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy.

**"Just wanted to let you know how grateful I was for all the help that Mike Siegel gave me. I was working on a project for school regarding setting up a business in Lower Providence Township and I needed to obtain information regarding zoning and other regulations. He was most generous with his time and provided me with great information...I was impressed with the website and the programs that are in place in our township."**

*Nancy Petrone*

**"This is a brief note to state that Lower Providence is now considered a 'first-class township' regarding the matter of plans, deeds of dedication and other related documents for a subdivision. I commend the efforts of the entire staff at Lower Providence for raising the bar..."**

*Anthony Santangelo, Germantown Title Company*

### ■ TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS

- Further streamlining of the Geographical Information System and building permit system; more information accessible on the website

#### □ Codes & Planning / Zoning

- Received 2,416 permit applications
- 390 Zoning Permit applications
- 291 Building Permit applications
- 221 Certificate of Compliance (Resale) Permit applications
- 241 Electrical Permit applications
- 59 New Business License Permit applications
- 122 Mechanical Permit applications
- 121 Plumbing Permit applications
- 944 Road Opening Permit applications (majority for Verizon)
- 27 Security Permit applications
- 2,237 inspection requests
- Received and processed 24 subdivision and land development applications which included: 10 subdivision and land development plan submissions; 5 DeMinimus Land Development submissions; 6 Conditional Use applications, and 3 Rezoning applications.
- 21 zoning appeal applications
- Processed three ordinance amendments to the Lower Providence Township Code
- Consulted with the Village Commercial Committee for the established of a revised Village Commercial Ordinance for the Township
- Continued the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit PADEP protocol for the Township
- Completed Census LUCA Data as requested by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Received funding for the Tree Vitalization grant for naturalization of two Township storm water basins

# HUMAN RESOURCES

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

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ PERSONNEL

- Employee turnover was practically non-existent: Two employees voluntarily resigned to accept assignments that were considered a substantial step forward in their career paths.

### ■ PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

- Individual goals and objectives set for each position
- Addressed the individual position's responsibilities in meeting the overall goals of Township
- Objectives are clearly outlined and employees assist in the decision-making process

### ■ TRAINING

- Employees attended training classes in topics pertaining to their specific responsibilities such as: Safe Snow Operations, Utility Marking, Proper Excavation, Trenching, Shoring and Rescue, Confined Space Entry, Energy Savings, Equipment and Worker Safety, Staff Retention, ADA Requirements, Work Zone Safety, Excel Charting and Graphs, Labor Law, Workers Compensation, and Budgeting Techniques.

### ■ INSURANCE

- Medical – Self Insurance – Cost Savings
  - As a cost-savings measure, the Township self-insures various portions of the non-uniformed medical insurance coverage, resulting in lower premiums.
  - Realized a savings of \$39,000 during 2008.
- Medical Insurance Premium – Cost Avoidance
  - Although medical insurance premiums continue to skyrocket, through diligence, the Aetna renewal premium was renegotiated down 4%, resulting in approximately \$26,000 in cost avoidance for the 2009 budget year.
- Workers Compensation Premium - Safety Committee Credit – Cost Savings
  - As a result of the Safety Committee's certification in good standing with the PA Department of Labor & Industry, the Township earned a credit on its Workers Compensation Insurance renewal premium in the amount of \$14,606.

### ■ WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Safety Incentive Program
  - A "Random Act of Safety" Program was launched during 2008. All Safety Committee Members have \$5 gift cards to award to employees whom they observe committing a "Random Act of Safety." To date, this program has successfully awarded gift cards to individuals who go above and beyond what is expected as it relates to safety.
- Safety Training
  - In conjunction with the Emergency Management Coordinator, employees received safety-related training in areas such as: fire extinguisher operation, First-aid, CPR/AED, Right-to-Know, and the Township Emergency Evacuation Plan.

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ CITIZEN SURVEY

- Goal: To assess the Township's level of service, to identify community needs and areas of concern, and to help the Township set future goals and priorities.
- Administered by independent, professional agency, the National Citizen Survey
- Surveys mailed to 1,200 randomly selected households; 340 surveys were returned for response rate of 29 percent. Survey results featured in the Winter 2009 Newsletter and posted on the Township website, [www.lowerprovidence.org](http://www.lowerprovidence.org).



**LIFE IN LOWER PROVIDENCE** – Township scenes, past and present, are part of the mural added to the township building in the summer of 2008.

### ■ HISTORICAL MARKERS

- Marker installed for the historical villages of Eagleville, Trooper and Audubon, replicating Keystone Town Markers of the 1920s. Each marker carries a brief statement about the origin of the name of each village.

### ■ TOWNSHIP HISTORY BOOK – PHASE 1

- Goal: To publish a history of the Township that is as complete and accurate as possible, building on information gathered for the national bicentennial and the Township's bicentennial. Phase One involved verifying the information and completing research for any missed information.

### ■ PUBLICATIONS

- Green Initiative - Recycled paper and soy-based ink were used for the newsletter and Parks and Recreation Brochure. The change is part of the Township's "Living Green Initiative" to promote a safe and eco-friendly community and to lead by example.
- E-Newsletter – Introduced at the end of 2008, this is another extension of the Living Green initiative. Residents can register to receive an email link to future newsletters, opting out of the mailing. This "paperless" publication saves both printing and postage costs, and is environmentally sensitive. Residents can sign up at the township website.

### ■ WEBSITE, CABLE ACCESS CHANNEL

- Content of the website is continually updated and expanded to make as much information as possible easily accessible to the public
- Cable Access Channel now available on both Verizon (Channel 42) and Comcast (Channel 28)

### ■ AUDITORIUM DISPLAY

- Display cases in the Township's auditorium were continued to be used to spotlight local resources. Currently, items from the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove are featured in the cases and artwork on loan is hung on the back wall of the auditorium

### ■ MURAL PROJECT

- Mary Han Chessen, a Trooper resident and 2008 Methacton High School graduate, completed the mural, which depicts Township scenes past and present, in the stairwell leading from the main lobby of the Administration Building

### ■ OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

- Work was completed to ensure that the Township was in compliance with the state's new Open Records Law that became effective 1/1/2009. An Open Records Policy was prepared and adopted, putting into place procedures for handling and tracking requests for information, an Open Records Officer was appointed, and an Open Records Office page added to the township website



# PARKS & RECREATION

## 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS

### ■ HOY PARK FISHING PIER

Summary: In addition to completion of the boat ramp, the fishing pier and ADA walking path were completed. The project was funded in part by a grant from DCNR.

### ■ AUDUBON RECREATION ASSOCIATION COMPLEX – ADA PATH

Summary: A paved path from the parking area to the snack bar/restroom area was installed.

### ■ EAGLEVILLE PARK – MASTER PLAN

Summary: Engaging Chambers Associates, Inc., the Eagleville Park Master Plan was updated in order to include bocce courts, playing field, lights, etc. This expenditure will allow the Township to submit a current plan in order to comply with future grant requirements.

### ■ AUDUBON RECREATION ASSOCIATION COMPLEX PLAY STRUCTURE

Summary: A play structure was purchased on state contract to replace aging equipment at the complex. Staff prepared the area and a certified contractor removed the old equipment and installed the new structure. The new play structure replaces an unsafe and out of code unit with a safe and family oriented one.

### ■ ESKIE PARK PLAY STRUCTURE

Summary: The play structure was purchased on state contract from George Ely, Assoc. Staff prepared the area and a certified contractor removed the old equipment and installed the new structure. The new play structure replaces an unsafe and out of code unit with a safe and family oriented one.

### ■ LEVEL ROAD SCHOOLHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Summary: The existing cedar shake roof needed replacement to avoid water, insect, and rodent damage. The roof was replaced with a 30-year architectural asphalt shingle with a roof vent to provide ventilation. All wood was capped in aluminum and new gutters were installed to complete the project and ensure easy maintenance. In addition, the building was rewired and the furnace replaced.

### ■ CRANBERRY PARK – PARKING

Summary: A paved parking lot was installed at Cranberry Park, one of the Township's newest parks located on River Road.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ SHOEMAKER HOUSE

- The Parks & Recreation Department relocated from the Administration Building to the newly renovated Shoemaker House. Public Works and Parks and Recreation crews did much of the interior restoration work, while Moscariello Construction Co. completed the exterior stonework. The Shoemaker House has certainly turned into a "home" for the Department.

### ■ CAMP PERKIOMY

- Three sites
  - ❑ Arrowhead Elementary – 117 participants
  - ❑ Audubon Elementary – 125 participants
  - ❑ Eagleville Elementary – 125 participants
- Children ages 6 to 13 divided into two groups known as the Rookies (Grades K – 4) and the Vets (Grades 5-8). Activities included games, team sports and arts & crafts in addition to offsite field trips.
- Field Trips – 20 offsite field trips, including activities such as bowling and mini golf, and destinations that included Water World, Camelbeach, Adventure Aquarium, the zoo and the movies.
- Staffing – 36 part-time workers; 1 Camp Director, 3 Site Supervisors, 6 Group Leaders, 26 Camp Counselors.

### ■ BUS TRIPS

- 15 trips via motor coach offered in conjunction with Limerick, Upper Providence, Worcester, and Skippack Townships and Trappe Borough
  - ❑ Destinations included Atlantic City, New York City, Washington D.C., and Cape May, N.J.

### ■ SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

- Partnerships with outside instructors and companies allows Township to provide a wide range of specialized programs at a reasonable fee
- 70 specialty program sessions with a total of 735 participants.

### ■ PERMITS

- Permits for field use, pavilion rentals, basketball court rentals and the use of Level Road School House.
- 18 multi-day (recurring) permits and 104 one-day permits issued

### ■ SPECIAL EVENTS

- 22 special events during 2008
- Caring and Sharing
  - ❑ Made possible by donations of township residents, staff and local businesses
  - ❑ 10 Thanksgiving dinner food baskets and 10 Christmas dinner food baskets provided to residents in need, gifts purchased for the children of each family
  - ❑ Collection of gently used coats & gloves. Over 40 bags of coats & gloves collected
- Cars Under the Stars – Car show and outdoor movie
- Holiday celebrations / events
  - ❑ July 4th Fireworks
  - ❑ Earth Day
  - ❑ Easter Egg Hunt
  - ❑ Turkey "Fowl" Shooting Contest
  - ❑ Holiday Festival
  - ❑ Holiday Card Drawing Contest
  - ❑ Santa's Hotline
- Fall Festival
- Kid Culture series – 3 programs
- Movie in the Park
- Oldies Dances - 3
- Santa's Hotline
- Summer Concert Series – 5 concerts





**PARK ADDITION** – 2008 saw the completion of an handicapped-accessible fishing pier at Hoy Park.

#### ■ SPONSORSHIPS

- Sponsorships help to minimize or eliminate user fees for many programs. We acknowledge with gratitude our 2008 program sponsors:
  - ☐ Audubon Recreation Association
  - ☐ Chambers Associates, Inc.
  - ☐ Comcast
  - ☐ CMX
  - ☐ Commerce Bank
  - ☐ Dell Retirement Services
  - ☐ J.P. Mascaro
  - ☐ Lower Providence Optimist Club
  - ☐ McMahon Associates
  - ☐ PECO
  - ☐ Shannondell
  - ☐ Superior Tube
  - ☐ Verizon

#### ■ DISCOUNT TICKETS

- Discounted tickets for area ski slopes and amusement parks made possible through Department's membership with the Pennsylvania Recreation & Parks Society (PRPS)
  - ☐ Discounted movie tickets for Regal Theater

#### ■ ON-LINE REGISTRATION

- The implementation of on-line registration software has allowed for our residents to enroll in programs at their convenience. Gone are the days of taking time out of your busy schedule to register for one of our wonderful programs. With this software we are also able to send out reminders to a targeted audience about upcoming events.

#### ■ PARKS

- Tree maintenance was at the top of the list in 2008 with over 180 trees pruned, over 160 dead or invasive trees removed and 57 new trees planted throughout the parks, basins and open space areas.

#### ■ BASINS

- Of the 22 basins the Parks Department maintains, 11 have been naturalized.
- 5 basins were naturalized during 2008 by planting a selection of trees and scrubs.

**"I was driving by Hoy Park today and saw the recent improvements. I just wanted to commend those involved for doing such a fine job. The pictures of the birds were great. Very nice craftsmanship on that as well as the deck work down by the water... Thank you for the fine job."**

***Jim Fusco***

**"I wanted to take a moment to thank those involved in repairing the split-rail fence around the basin near the Casselberry House... I am glad to see the pro-active work of the various township departments to keep public property attractive and in good repair."**

***Timothy O'Connell***

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS

### ■ RIDGE PIKE VIDEO PROJECT

Summary: Video monitoring and recording equipment was installed at key intersections along Ridge Pike to provide vital, real time information to police dispatchers. The information is used in many ways, from the controlling of traffic signals to alleviate congestion in an emergency situation or evacuation, to the assessment of vehicle accidents/incidents in order to dispatch appropriate emergency services.

- Included the intersections of Ridge Pike and Eagleville Road, East Mount Kirk Avenue, Park Avenue, and Trooper Road.
- Completed in cooperation with West Norriton Township
- \$20,000 grant provided by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.
- Utilized fiber optic cable installed by PennDOT for the Ridge Pike Closed Loop System

### ■ RIDGE PIKE CLOSED LOOP PROGRAMMING

Summary: The project added three programs to the existing Ridge Pike Closed Loop System in order to prioritize traffic traveling eastbound on Ridge Pike, westbound on Ridge Pike or northbound on Trooper Road and then west on Ridge Pike. The programming is used to alleviate congestion in emergency or evacuation situations.

- Joint project with West Norriton Township
- Synchronized signal system improves safety

### ■ TRAFFIC SIGNAL COMPLIANCE CHECK

Summary: All of the signalized intersections throughout the Township were checked to verify that each is working according to the approved permit plan and current standards. Cooperation was received from West Norriton Township for those signals located on the shared Trooper Road corridor. Any deficiencies found were remediated through PennDOT revision of permits, signal contractors and the Public Works Department.

### ■ EAGLEVILLE ROAD, PINETOWN ROAD, SUNNYSIDE AVENUE PROJECT

Summary: Solutions to improve the safety of the intersection and reduce the number of accidents at the intersection were investigated. Based on the recommendations of the Township's traffic engineer, signage and roadway markings were installed by the Public Works Department and Guidemark. An ordinance amendment restricting parking on Eagleville Road between Featherbed Lane and Sunnyside Avenue was approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 20, 2008.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ CRIME

- 378 reported Part I Crimes as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports; a decrease from the 427 reported in 2007. Of those, 171 were cleared for a clearance rate of 45%.
- 667 Part II Crimes as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports, a decrease from the 718 reported in 2007. Of those, 380 were cleared for a clearance rate of 57%, a 4.1% increase over 2007.
- 247 criminal arrests for felony and misdemeanor offenses. Officers filed 283 non-traffic citations for summary violations of the Crimes Code and Township Ordinance violations.
- A summary of specific offenses reported in 2008 is as follows:

Murder.....	0	Motor Vehicle Theft.....	21	Sex Offenses.....	8
Rape.....	3	Arson.....	1	Drug Violations.....	33
Robbery.....	3	Forgery.....	22	Driving Under the Influence..	61
Aggravated Assault.....	5	Fraud.....	104	Underage Drinking.....	12
Other Assault.....	74	Receiving Stolen Property.....	2	Public Drunkenness.....	36
Burglary.....	63	Criminal Mischief.....	245	Disorderly Conduct.....	37
Theft.....	264	Weapons Offenses.....	2	All Other Offenses.....	181

### ■ TRAFFIC

- 3,576 vehicle stops resulting in 1,786 traffic citations. These figures reflect increases from the 3,264 vehicle stops and 1,524 traffic citations issued in 2007. Additionally, 61 motorists were arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or a Controlled Substance.
- 644 total motor vehicle accidents, 252 of those accidents were reportable accidents which involve a fatality, an injury or one or more of the vehicles involved requiring towing. There was one fatal motor vehicle accident investigated. There were 392 non-reportable accidents investigated.
- The department participated in the "Smooth Operator" initiative, geared toward enforcement action on aggressive driving behaviors; the "Click It Or Ticket" seat belt program integrating enforcement and education; and, Driving Under the Influence Roving Patrols through the Valley Forge Area DUI Task Force.

### ■ ACTIVITY

- The Dispatch Center logged 35,409 calls for the year 2008. Of those, department members responded to 10,072 calls for service, a slight increase from the 10,056 calls for service in 2007; 2,430 Incident Reports were prepared and submitted, an increase from the 2,389 Incident Reports in 2007.

### ■ EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

- With grant funding, Taser electronic incapacitation devices were procured as a less than lethal force alternative. Two officers were certified as instructors and training and certification were provided to department members. Through grant funding, replacement police duty firearms and additional patrol rifles were procured, training and certification completed.

### ■ PROGRAMS

- Philadelphia Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (RCFL) - In 2008, Det. Stephen L. Rowe, who is assigned to the RCFL, was certified as a Computer Forensic Examiner (CFE). RCFL is a collaboration of the Township with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies.
- School Resource Officer program, based at the Arcola Intermediate School - Services provided to the four elementary schools in the Township; 68.9% reduction in violent incidents and a 25.2% reduction in disciplinary referrals through the first two years of the program.

### ■ SEAMLESS TRANSITION

- Through the proactive approach endorsed by the Board of Supervisors, the staffing level of the police department was maintained with the hiring of three police officers in July of 2008 in order to fill the retirements of three veteran officers anticipated in the beginning of 2009 due to their enrollment in the Deferred Retirement Option Program. With this anticipatory hiring of replacement officers, the new officers' Field Training Program was completed and there was a seamless transition of the new officers into the vacancies.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

- The Township's Emergency Operations Plan is reviewed on an annual basis and updated as changes occur.
- The Township's Emergency Operations Plan meets all County (Department of Public Safety) and State (PA Emergency Management Agency) requirements.

### ■ MOBILE COMMAND CENTER

- The existing Mobile Command Center (MCC) was in need of costly repairs. It was auctioned off and a 2003 Ford/Coachman motor home was purchased. With most of the work done in-house, the vehicle was retrofitted with existing and additional equipment. The MCC is used by First Responders to effectively coordinate direction and control during an event or emergency.

### ■ KEY LOCK BOXES

- Township Ordinance requires all businesses to have a Key Lock Box allowing rapid entry of first responders during an emergency. Throughout the year, Key Lock Boxes contents are updated as needed with new keys, floor plans, etc.

### ■ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

- The Township maintains Emergency Contact Information for all businesses and selected residents that is updated annually.
- The information is treated as confidential information and is accessible by first responders.

### ■ ALARMS

- The department monitors Fire and Security Alarm activities of Township residents and businesses per Township Ordinance, documenting all alarms, true or false.
- There were 922 total alarms, 872 of these were false, 50 true.
- The Fire Marshal works with residents and businesses in an attempt to reduce their excess false alarms.

### ■ DISASTER DRILL

- The drill was conducted to ensure that First Responders understand the contents of the Emergency Operations Plan and have a working knowledge of the Incident Command System. The drill involved participation by Red Cross volunteers acting as victims.

### ■ FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Located, inspected and serviced all fire extinguishers in Township buildings and vehicles, totaling 107.
- Provide for annual fire extinguisher training for staff, and businesses upon request.

### ■ FIRST AID/CPR/AED

- Partnered with Human Resources Department to ensure First Aid, CPR & AED training for Township staff.
- Inventoried First-Aid kits; schedule for replacement in 2009.
- Partnered with Project Analyst to secure \$10,000.00 grant from the Phoenixville Health Foundation to purchase three additional AEDs and cabinets.

### ■ RIGHT-TO-KNOW TRAINING

- Provide for annual Right-To-Know training to Township Staff

### ■ SCHEDULED AND UNFORESEEN INCIDENTS

- Planning for scheduled events and response to incidents including:
  - ☐ Severe weather
  - ☐ Flooding
  - ☐ Fires
  - ☐ Hazardous Materials
  - ☐ Road Closures
  - ☐ Environmental Emergencies
  - ☐ Utility Emergencies
  - ☐ Community Events
  - ☐ July 4th Celebration/Fireworks
  - ☐ Fall Fest

## 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS

### ■ EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ENS)

Summary: Prior severe weather events and local emergencies identified a need for the Township to better communicate with its residents, businesses and visitors during these emergencies in a consistent and timely manner. The ENS allows authorized Township officials to record and send voice messages to thousands of residents, businesses, and local agencies in just minutes, through a single phone call.

- The system went live on January 18, 2008.
- 19 incidents initiating 42 messages and generating 120,022 phones called
- Events included severe weather, hazardous materials, extended power outages, road closures and water quality.

### ■ FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

Summary: Fire Alarm Systems were installed at the following facilities: Public Works Complex, Parks Office, Shoemaker Barn, Level Road School House

- All alarms were installed and operational by June 19.
- The system was tested on September 15



The Mobile Command Center served as the on-site operations center during a recent disaster drill.

## 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS

### ■ REPLACEMENT OF NORTH GRANGE AVENUE CULVERT

Summary: Due to its age and deteriorated condition, a culvert on North Grange Avenue needed to be repaired. A Public Works crew replaced the pipe and repaired the stonework.

- Additional improvement work may include installation of a guide rail, guniting of the stone wall and additional signage for the roadway.

### ■ APPLEDALE ROAD & PECHIN MILL CULVERT REPAIRS

Summary: Using Value Engineering, it was decided to gunite rusted corrugated pipes and walls to extend the useful life of the two culverts. The bid for the work was awarded to SWERP Inc., of Lafayette Hill, who submitted the lowest bid. Work was completed in October.

### ■ CHURCH ROAD STORM WATER IMPROVEMENT

Summary: Several residents in the area expressed concern about storm water run-off coming from the Public Works Garage and Eskie Park. After investigating the issue, the Township Engineer recommended a design to enlarge the detention basin and carry over additional storm water to the basin.

- Detention basin enlarged
- Storm water pipe installed

### ■ ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS – SKYLINE DRIVE & WINTHROP ROAD

Summary: This work was carried over from the 2007 Road Reconstruction Projects. Because of the poor condition of the concrete curbs on Skyline Drive and Winthrop Road, some residents sought help from the Township to make the necessary repairs. The Board of Supervisors approved the repair of those curbs that were badly deteriorated. Curb work, milling and paving was completed on both roads.

### ■ ACT 209 IMPROVEMENTS – RIDGE PIKE & SUNNYSIDE AVENUE PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Summary: The Public Works Director worked with the Township Traffic Engineer, McMahon Associates, to review the proposed traffic signal for Ridge Pike and Sunnyside Avenue and access on the north side of the site. Meetings were held with adjoining property owners to discuss the project who agreed with the final draft version.

- In July, the Board of Supervisors reviewed the draft. The draft plan will allow the Township to move forward on the project when sufficient funds are available.

### ■ SARAH ROAD STORM WATER IMPROVEMENT

Summary: To address storm water running down from Sarah Road and flooding residents' properties on Longacre Road and East Mount Kirk Avenue, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Township Engineer to review the drainage system and recommend improvements.

- Public Works crews installed a storm water pipe, storm water inlets and created berms for directing the water.

### ■ SMITH ROAD STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT

Summary: The goal of the project was to eliminate storm water runoff traveling down and across Smith Road cutting across a resident's property.

- Additional pipe and inlets were installed along Smith Road
- follow-up monitoring showed the system to be successful.

### ■ MONTGOMERY COUNTY TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE

Summary: The Montgomery County Traffic Signal Upgrade Program falls under a grant that is administered by the County and allows Townships to upgrade traffic signal equipment. Because of Montgomery County's scheduling, the work is scheduled to occur in 2009.

- The project will upgrade the traffic signals at Ridge Pike and Level/Evansburg Roads and Trooper Road and Clark Hill Road.

**"It's not very often that I take the time to write a thank you message, but I really wanted to thank the Lower Providence Township road crews for always having our roads cleared in a timely manner. Your crew is so on top of things that sometimes seeing the roads covered in brine is my weather forecast." Michelle Brown**

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### ■ ROAD REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

- Lower Providence Township owns and maintains 89.15 miles of roadway. This number has grown by 45% over the last 20 years. The cost for labor and materials to maintain the roads has increased tremendously.
- Lee and Longspur Repair - A utility contractor damaged a water line at Lee and Longspur Roads, causing water to seep between the roadway's base asphalt coat and the wearing course. The Township made the necessary repairs and the utility company then reimbursed the Township for the work.
- Additional on-going maintenance and responsibilities include:
  - ☐ PA One Calls to mark the location of Township owned facilities such as traffic light loop detectors and storm sewer facilities
  - ☐ Street sweeping and roadside mowing
  - ☐ Signage - Street signs, speed limit signs, warning signs, and regulatory signs.
  - ☐ Pothole repair, guide rail repair and line striping

### ■ SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

- In the winter season of 2007/2008, the crew used 1350 tons of salt. The Township plows Township highways and Township owned facilities; it does not plow state, county, or private roadways. In addition to plowing, crews are responsible for shoveling the Township Administration Facility, Police Area, Library, and Township owned sidewalks.
- Roads are brined in advance of a snow or ice event when possible utilizing two trucks with sprayers. To spray all Township roadways, the department puts down approximately 10,000 gallons of liquid brine.

### ■ BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- The Department installed a new exhaust system for the mechanics shop. The system allows the mechanics to vent exhaust fumes to the outside.
- Under the direction of the Emergency Management Coordinator, the crew ran wiring for the installation of a fire alarm system at the Public Works Garage and Parks Office and completed installation of wiring, cabinets and equipment for the Mobile Command Center.
- On-going maintenance includes lighting repair, plumbing work, wiring installation, and painting.

### ■ STORM SEWER REPAIRS

- The Public Works crew repaired over 65 storm water inlets during 2008. This work included replacing storm sewer tops to rebuilding the entire inlet.
- North Grange Avenue and Old Baptist Road - The crew repaired and replaced stone from the culvert end walls and placed new signage at both ends of the culvert indicating narrow roadway. Finally, guiderail was updated on the east side of the roadway.
- Storm Sewer Projects
  - ☐ Eaglestream Drive    ☐ Smith Road    ☐ Church Road
  - ☐ Eskie Park    ☐ Sarah Road
- Stoughton Road – Sinkhole repair
- Vincent Drive - Storm Sewer Easement Relocation

### ■ EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- The Department's two mechanics service and maintain the Township owned vehicles and equipment.
- Public Works coordinates repair of traffic lights, flashing warning lights and school zone lights using an outside contractor. The Department also is responsible for coordinating the repair of Township owned streetlights, also utilizing an outside contractor.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS & TECHNOLOGY

## 2008 CAPITAL PROJECTS

### ■ VIDEO RECORDING OF BOS MEETINGS

Summary: In April 2008, the Township implemented video recording of the Board of Supervisors meetings and broadcasting of these meetings on a delayed schedule via the community access cable channel (Comcast Channel 28, Verizon Channel 42). Additionally, several large meetings at off-site locations were videotaped.

- Provides an additional communication method to keep residents informed
- Possible future uses of equipment include taping annual Township-sponsored events

### ■ TELEPHONE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

Summary: The Township's 10-year-old phone system needed hardware and software upgrades. Limited connectivity between offices, aging equipment, lack of functionality, and upgrade costs all contributed to the decision to replace the phone system. The upgrade allowed improved efficiencies and proved improved communication, with callers given the ability to directly reach employees and departments. In addition, to remote buildings, the Shoemaker House and the Public Works facility, are now part of the phone system allowing for seamless access to any department.

### ■ POLICE WIRELESS DATA TRANSMISSION

Summary: The project was implemented to allow police officers to use in-car computers to directly access an instant reporting system, providing immediate access to a current database snapshot of police information.

### ■ CODE ENFORCEMENT TABLET PCS

Summary: Tablet PCs enable the Code Enforcement staff to access and update permit information and inspection results while in the field, saving on travel time and expense to and from the office and allowing quick resolution of issues. The staff can enter all information into the Township system while at an inspection.

- Desktop computers retired and stored for emergency use.

### ■ EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER LIVE OFFSITE BACKUP

Summary: The project provides for an emergency recovery location remote to the Township administration facility capable of becoming operational in short period of time (less than 8 hours).

- Part of the Township's Continuity of Operations plan
- Ensures that systems and data are fully backed up
- Provides for minimal recovery time should a disaster force the relocation of township services.

### ■ BUILDING SECURITY SYSTEM

Summary: The system includes ten individual card readers on nine doors. Photo ID badges were assigned to each staff member with access privileges warranted by the position.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

The Department focused on identifying opportunities for bringing new businesses into the township, actively working with brokers, property owners and agencies such as the Montgomery County Industrial Development Authority, Montgomery County Industrial Development Corporation, and the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association. In addition, technology improvements were sought that would enhance efficiencies, reduce costs, and improve communications with residents and businesses.

### ■ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Valley Forge Corporate Center (VFCC) opportunities and revitalization
- 14 businesses continued operations totaling of 430 jobs.
- 2 businesses are new property owners

### ■ VIDEO RECORDING & REBROADCAST OF SUPERVISORS' MEETINGS

- 19 meetings recorded
- 30 hours and 50 minutes total recorded time, over 270 hours of air time

### ■ TELEPHONE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

- Direct dial number for each office and improved phone prompt

### ■ POLICE REMOTE ACCESS TO POLICE APPLICATIONS

- Real-time access to police applications from the patrol cars provides for more efficient use of time

### ■ CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS LIVE OFFSITE BACKUP

- In case of an emergency at the Township complex, preparations have been completed that will allow operations to continue from the Public Works facility
- Live backup stored securely offsite within 15 miles of the Township

### ■ CODE ENFORCEMENT TABLET PCS

- Gives Code Enforcement employees access to email, permits, Geographic Information System (GIS) and Internet from the field

### ■ CENSUS 2010

- Worked collaboratively with Community Development Department to provide address data to Census

## A NOTE ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

You may have noticed that this year's Annual Report has fewer pages and has a different look and feel than in recent years. Wherever possible we've cut costs and adopted a "just the facts" philosophy, while still providing a thorough recap of the year.

*On the cover: During 2008, the Township completed the ultimate "recycling" project, restoring the historic Shoemaker House to its former beauty and using the renovated structure as the home of the Parks & Recreation Department.*



# LIBRARY

2008 saw a 7% increase in the number of visitors, totaling 188,226, with 267,400 items borrowed - a 14% increase in items.

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### FUNDING

- Partially funded by allocations from the state (\$128,165) and from Lower Providence Township real estate taxes (\$413,802). The remaining funds for the operating budget are raised by the Library through fundraising events, donations, grants, interest, fines, and fees (\$163,016).
- In 2008 the Library spent \$31.73 per capita for each Lower Providence Township resident, \$18.48 of which came from local tax dollars. The Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a seven-member volunteer Library Board of Trustees.

### LIBRARY RESOURCES

- 6,224 items added to the collection for a total of 60,482, in addition to the print and audiovisual collection.
- Library patrons have access to 41 online databases through POWER Library, 7 more including downloadable audio books through county-wide library resources, and a 24/7 live online reference service ([www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org](http://www.lowerprovidencelibrary.org)).
- Joined Access PA enabling our patrons to receive a quicker response to interlibrary loan requests
- Added 2 new computers to the Children's Department.
- Added TumbleBooks, an online animated e-book library for children, a county-wide resource
- Began a monthly e-newsletter with library news and program information

### FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS / PLANNING

- Installed new front doors with an automatic opener
- Made repairs and improvements to the roof
- Completed the Strategic Plan 2008-2013

### *Friends of the Lower Providence Community Library*

The Friends of the Lower Providence Community Library support the Library through volunteer work and fundraising efforts. The group raised \$13,500 for the Library through used book sales, book bags sales, and supermarket receipt refund programs and other efforts. The Friends also assisted with the Annual Wine Tasting and Vaux Hill Tour fundraising events.

### *Staff & Volunteers*

In May, the Library welcomed new Library Director Lynn Burkholder. The Library's dedicated staff includes 3 full-time and 18 part-time workers plus several substitutes. In addition, many volunteers contributed a combined total of 3,682 hours of service. Volunteers were recognized for their service at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic hosted by the Library Board of Trustees.

### PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- 34% increase in Children's Program participation with a total of 14,135 attending 445 programs.
- Story Time held 4 days a week, 2 sessions each day.
- Readers Club for ages 8-11 and TAB (Teen Advisory Board) met monthly.
- Summer Reading Club - 916 young people from preschool age through teens registered, total attendance at programs and events was 1,904.
- Science in the Summer—4-day science workshop sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, 64 children.
- 33% increase in Adult Program participation with 1,609 persons attending 65 programs.
- Two fundraising events—the 7th Annual Wine Tasting in March and a tour and luncheon at Vaux Hill, the historic home owned by Bob and Barbara Safford, in October.



# TAX COLLECTOR

**Office of the Tax Collector**  
**Kirsten Deal**  
**PO Box 7220**  
**Audubon, PA 19407-7220**  
**610-666-1980**  
**lptaxcollector@verizon.net**

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 calls 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 Collector's office for a replacement.

Installment plans were available for the Methacton School District RE tax bill for the first time in 2007. More information about the installment plan can be found at [www.methacton.org](http://www.methacton.org). Anyone who applied for the Homestead /Farmstead Exclusion on their primary residence was eligible (but not required) to make installment payments. There is no fee to apply for the Homestead /Farmstead Exclusion. Those who apply may be eligible for tax relief from state gambling revenues if that ever comes to pass. You can find the application at [www.montcopa.org](http://www.montcopa.org), click on Departments, Assessment Appeals, Homestead Application.

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.

# SEWER AUTHORITY

**Thomas Cicippio**  
**Superintendent**

**Fred Walker**  
**Chairman**

**Carl Buchenauer**  
**Vice Chairman**

**Robert Tschoepe**  
**Treasurer**

**Charles Rose**  
**Secretary**

**William Cleaver**  
**Asst. Treasurer**

**Hours of Operation:**  
**8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Weekdays**

**Contact Information:**  
**(610) 539-6161**  
**Fax (610) 539-4795**

**After-hour Emergencies:**  
**Contact the Lower Providence**  
**Police Department**  
**610-539-5900**

In 2008, the Sewer Authority implemented an 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.

I/I overburdens the system with increased flow that the system is not designed to handle. This is most prevalent during periods of heavy rain, indicating that the majority of the problem is caused by the illegal connection of sump pumps. As the pipes and manholes fill to capacity, the excess water, now mixed with sewage, starts to overflow from manholes in the street, vent stacks in front yards and, at times, into the basements of some homes where there are showers or toilets in the lower level of the house.

There are a number of sources of I/I in a collection system. A broken or leaking main line pipe and manholes are the responsibility of the Sewer Authority. However, those sources located on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. These include faulty underground piping, dislodged or missing vent stack covers, vent stacks broken off at or below ground level, rain gutters, French drains, and sump pumps connected to the sanitary sewer line.

The I/I Abatement Program is designed to identify areas of the Township that have the most significant I/I problem, identify the source, and provide a systematic approach to repairing and eliminating these sources of I/I. This will be accomplished by metering, tele-visual inspection, and smoke and dye testing. Once specific sources of I/I are identified, the party responsible for repair or removal will be notified and expected to address the problem within a reasonable amount of time.

# MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

**Craig Dininny**  
**Chairman**

**John Ruggiero**  
**Vice Chairman**

**Albert Vagnozzi**  
**Assistant Secretary**

**W. Douglas Hager**  
**Assistant Treasurer**

**Piero Sassu**

The Lower Providence Township Municipal Authority operates and is making significant improvements to the former General Washington Country Club, now the Club at Shannondell, preserving open space and providing excellent recreational facilities for the community.

Phase One provided for the restaurant, pool, and golf course improvements. Work continues on Phase Two, to include the banquet operation. It's anticipated that the land development plan will be submitted during the second half of 2009.



Lower Providence Township  
100 Parklane Drive  
Eagleville, PA 19403  
[www.lowerprovidence.org](http://www.lowerprovidence.org)

Presort STD Mail  
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PAID  
Permit # 263  
Southeastern PA

